



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

SPECIAL
MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

Board Room
Central Services
Administration Building

AGENDA

Mission Statement - To provide high-quality student-centred education that builds strong, healthy communities.

- 6:00 pm 1. **CALL TO ORDER** T. Boymook
2. **IN CAMERA SESSION**
- 7:00 pm 3. **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF
 GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**
- NEW BUSINESS**
5. **2021-22 RE-ENTRY PLAN** M. Liguori
(encl.)
- ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AUGUST 18/21 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. That the Board meet in camera.
That the Board revert to regular session.
3. That the Agenda be adopted as amended or as circulated.
4. *Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives.*
5. That the Board of Trustees approve one of four options regarding the Division's masking requirement for students, staff and visitors for the EIPS Operations Guidelines 2021-22. The Board will revisit the decision before Sept. 27, 2021—when the current provincial health orders expire.



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DATE: Aug. 18, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Mark Liguori, Superintendent

SUBJECT: EIPS Operations Guideline 2021-22 – Masking Requirement

ORIGINATOR: Mark Liguori, Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Sandra Stoddard, Associate Superintendent
Dave Antymniuk, Division Principal

REFERENCE: Board Policy 2: Role of the Board
Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools

EIPS PRIORITY: Enhance high-quality learning and working environments

EIPS GOAL: Positive learning and working environments

EIPS OUTCOME: The Division’s learning and working environments are welcoming, inclusive, respectful and safe

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve one of four options regarding the Division’s masking requirement for students, staff and visitors for the *EIPS Operations Guidelines 2021-22*. The Board will revisit the decision before Sept. 27, 2021—when the current provincial health orders expire.

BACKGROUND:

On Aug. 13, 2021, the Government of Alberta announced further details about returning to school for the 2021-22 school year and released its [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#). With the availability of vaccines, the province indicated it will be a normal return to school this fall, and students aren’t required to wear a mask. However, school divisions are encouraged to consider their local contexts to determine if extra precautions are necessary to reduce risk in school communities.

Last year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), as a safety-first precaution, exceeded the requirements from the Government of Alberta and required all students to mask from kindergarten to Grade 12. Feedback from the Committee of School Councils (COSC) was one of appreciation for creating an environment that allowed families in their respective school communities to feel safe sending their children to school during the pandemic.

As the Division prepares to welcome students and staff back to in-person learning, a decision on the range of safety strategies that will be in place, is required so families can be informed accordingly. While the Division will continue to have enhanced cleaning practices, hand sanitization, handwashing and stay-at-home when sick protocols, EIPS needs to make a decision about masks in schools and EIPS buildings. Outlined below are four options the Board of Trustees will need to consider as it determines a preferred option.

It should be noted, the pandemic has caused a lot of uncertainty for families and the communities EIPS serves, and there isn't one option that will result in all parties being satisfied.

OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Option 1

Strictly follow the direction of the Minister of Education and the health order of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health—as laid out in the province's, [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#). The document states masking isn't a mandated requirement but is optional for students in kindergarten to Grade 12.

Considerations:

- a. There are multiple opinions and perspectives on the best approach to keep students and staff safe during the pandemic. Some families and staff may agree with the new health order, while others may feel the Division needs to do more to keep children safe—a consideration that pertains to all options.

Option 2

Require the wearing of masks for all children, staff and visitors in kindergarten to Grade 6 divisionwide, except those with medical exemptions. Students, staff and visitors in grades 7-12 aren't required to wear masks if the immunization rate in their community is greater than 70 per cent. If the rate of youth immunization, 12-19 years of age, is less than 70 per cent, masking is mandatory, in all grades (kindergarten to Grade 12) for staff, students and visitors.

Considerations:

- a. Option 2 considers the greater risks posed to the health and safety of unvaccinated students getting COVID-19. Within EIPS, the percentage of fully vaccinated youth (ages 12-19) are as follows, as of August 16:
 - i. Sherwood Park: 71.1%
 - ii. Strathcona County: 54.8%
 - iii. Fort Saskatchewan: 59%
 - iv. Lamont County: 42.5%
 - v. Minburn County and Vegreville: 41.6%
- b. While this approach incorporates the importance of vaccines in reducing the negative impact of COVID-19, it has the potential to be very divisive.
- c. There are logistic issues as urban Sherwood Park has approximately 700 junior high and senior high students who come from rural areas or other communities (see, "Appendix B: Students from other EIPS sectors attending a Sector 1 school 2020-21")

Option 3

Require the wearing of masks for all children, staff and visitors in kindergarten to Grade 6 divisionwide. Students, staff and visitors in grades 7-12 aren't required to wear a mask, regardless of youth immunization rates.

Considerations:

- a. Option 3 incorporates the notion students in kindergarten to Grade 6 aren't able to be vaccinated yet. As well, the adding a mask requirement is another layer of protection for this population until vaccines are available.



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

- b. In communities where youth immunization (12-19 years of age) rates are low, COVID-19 variants may spread rapidly.

Option 4

Require the wearing of masks for all children (kindergarten to Grade 12), staff and visitors divisionwide—similar to last year.

Considerations:

- a. Students, staff and families are familiar with the protocols as this approach remains consistent with what was in place the previous year.
- b. Parents may not agree with the Division exceeding provincial health order.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

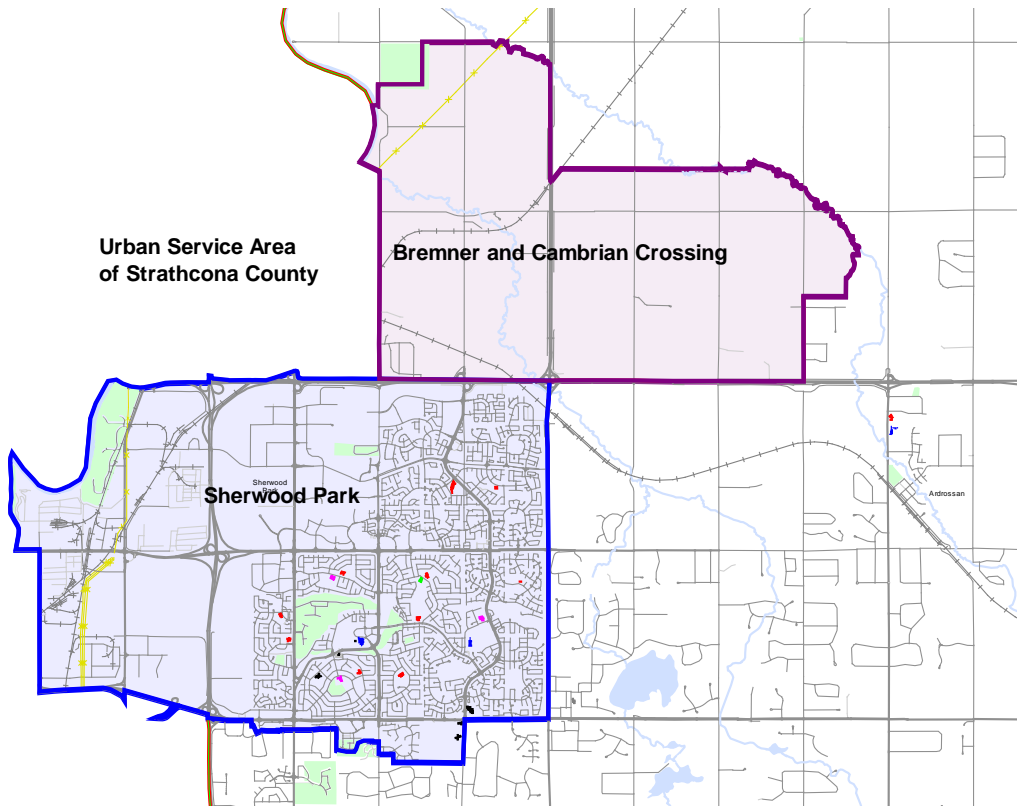
Communications will update the *EIPS Operations Guidelines 2021-22* accordingly for staff, students and families.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Appendix A: Students attending a Sector 1 school 2020-21
2. Appendix B: Students from other EIPS sectors attending a Sector 1 school 2020-21
3. Appendix C: Guidance for respiratory illness prevention and management in schools

Sector 1 Sherwood Park

The Urban Service Area of Strathcona County is defined as the combined (Blue and Purple) geography by By-law 15-2016 and By-Law 44-2016.

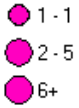


For the purposes of this report students residing within the Bremner and Cambrian Crossing Future ASPs (the area in purple) are considered to be crossing into Sector 1. It should be noted that there are only 42 students within the Bremner and Cambrian Crossing Area. Of which only 9 attend a Sector 1 school.

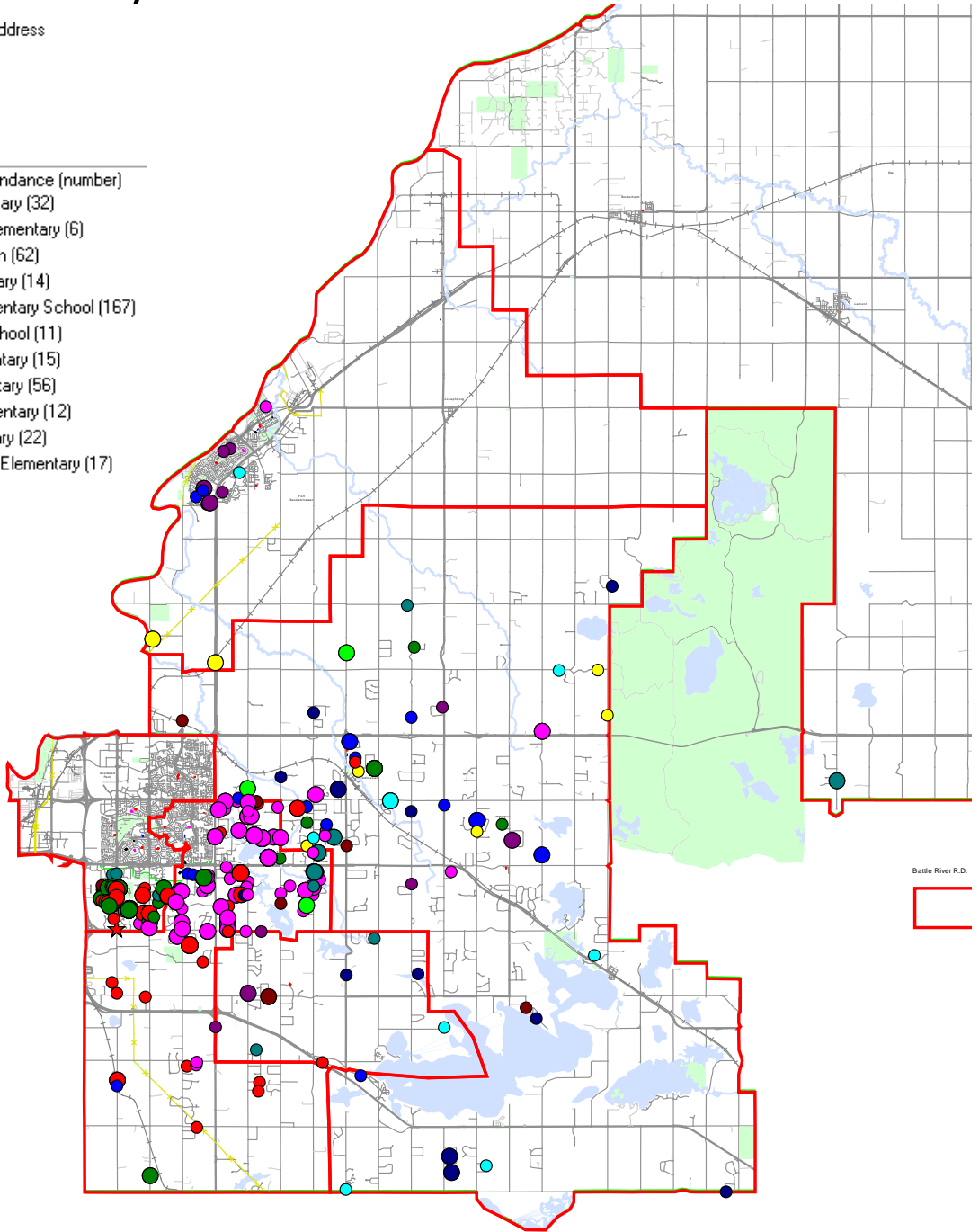
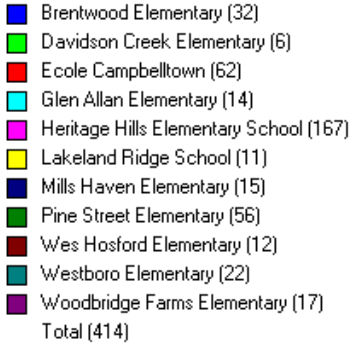
- Bev Facey High (2)
- F.R. Haythorne (1)
- Lakeland Ridge (4)
- Salisbury Composite (1)
- Wes Hosford (1)

All Elementaries by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address



Students by School of Attendance (number)



Note only students in grades K-6 are shown for Lakeland Ridge.

Brentwood Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

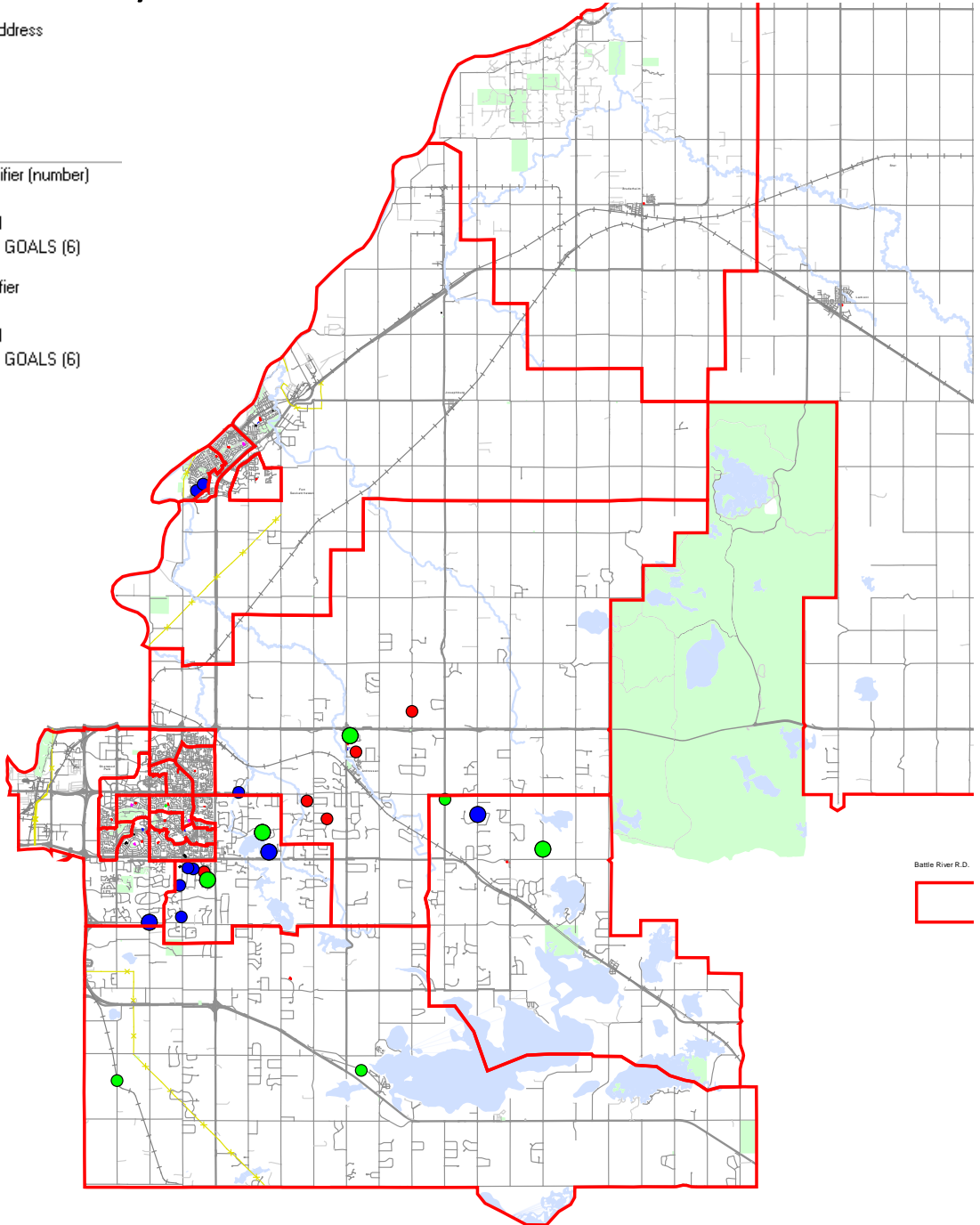
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (14)
- Logos Christian (12)
- Special Education - GOALS (6)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (14)
- Logos Christian (12)
- Special Education - GOALS (6)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	1	2	2	2	1	1	5	14
Logos	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	12
Goals	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	6
Total by Grade	3	4	5	7	4	3	6	32

Davidson Creek Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

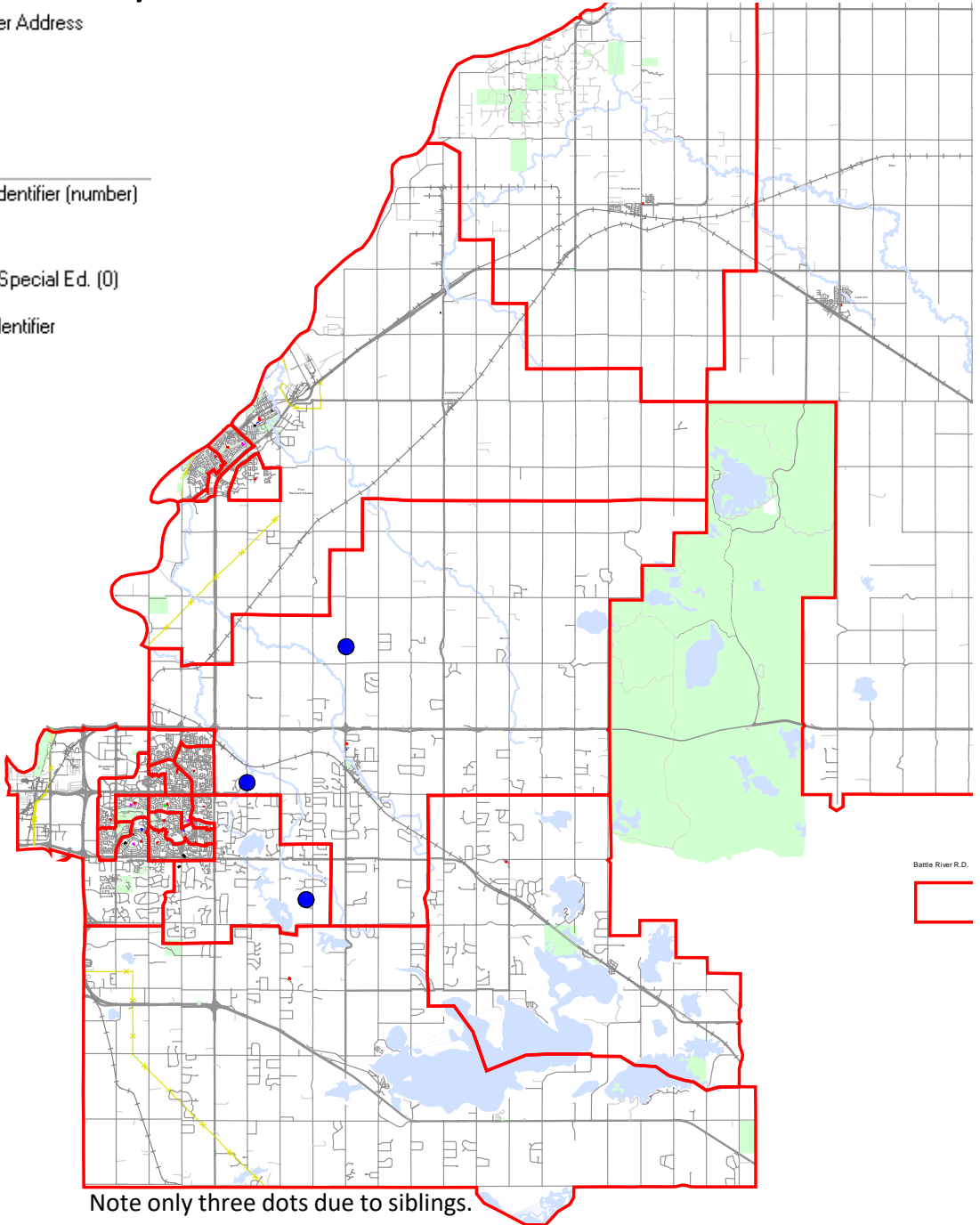
Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (6)
- Division (0)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)

Totals by Program/Identifier
Regular (6)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	6

Ecole Campbelltown

by K-6 French Immersion Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

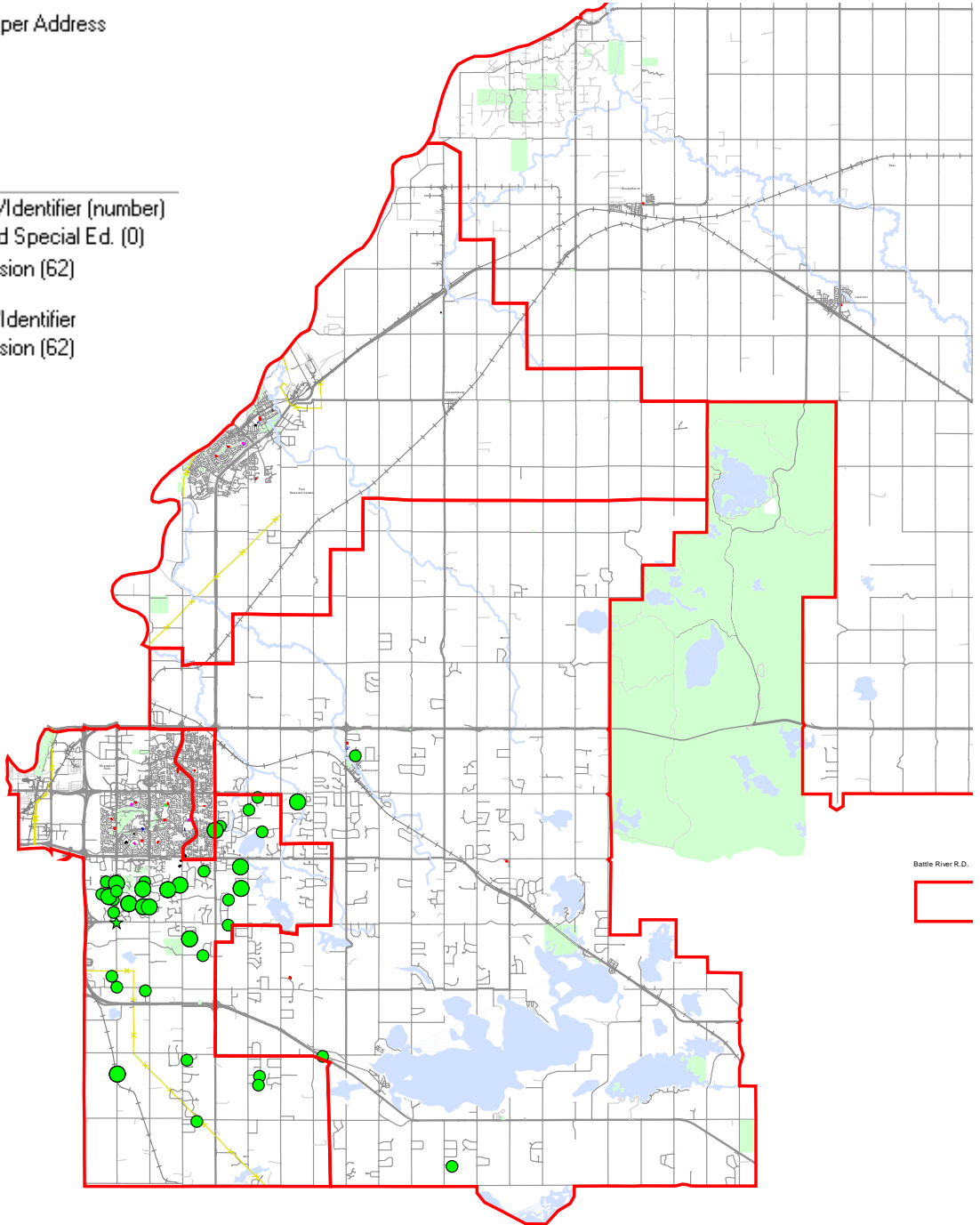
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)
- French Immersion (62)

Totals by Program/Identifier

French Immersion (62)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
French Immersion	9	7	11	8	6	14	7	62

Glen Allen Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

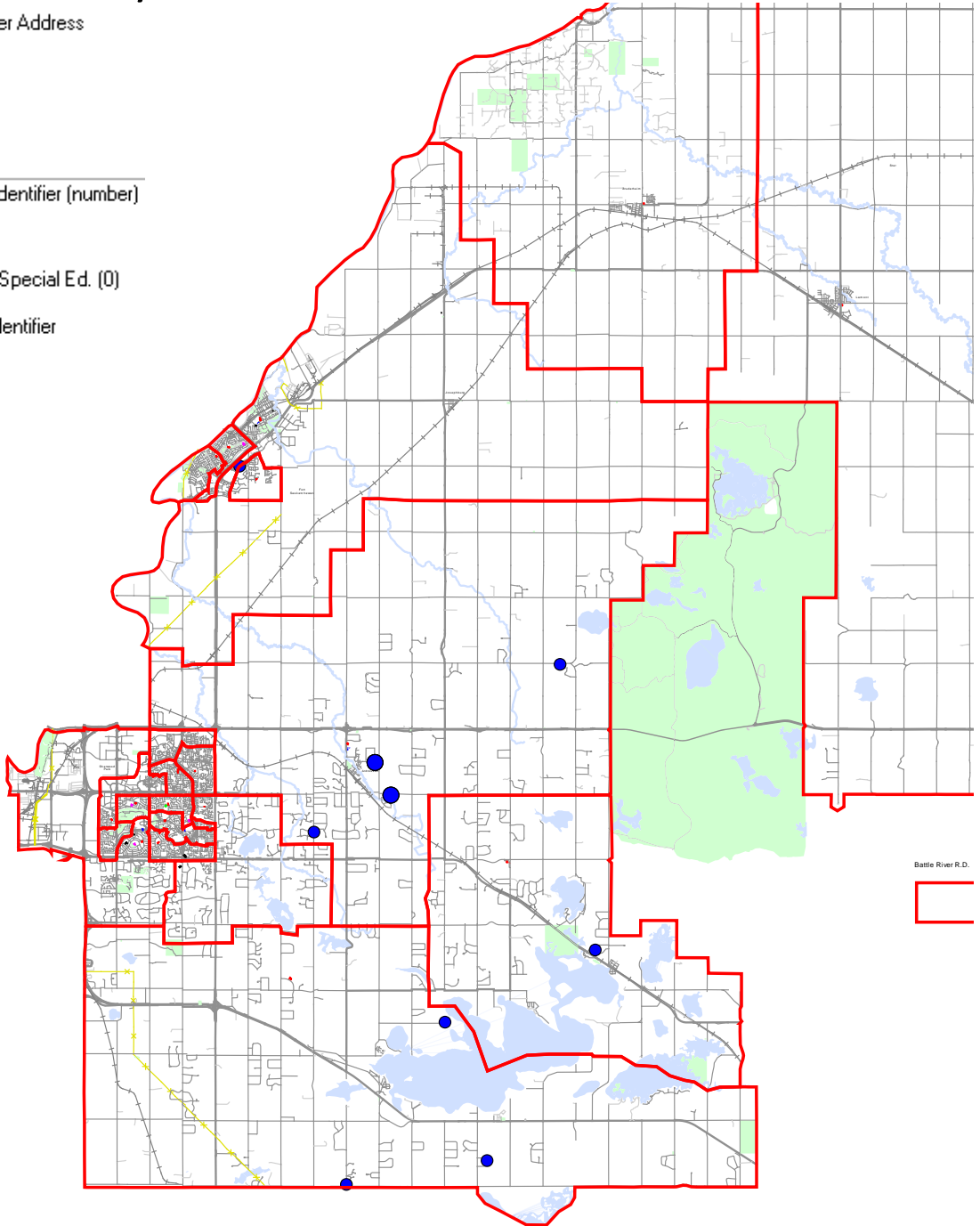
Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (14)
- Division (0)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)

Totals by Program/Identifier
Regular (14)



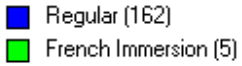
Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	4	2	3	0	3	1	1	14

Heritage Hills Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

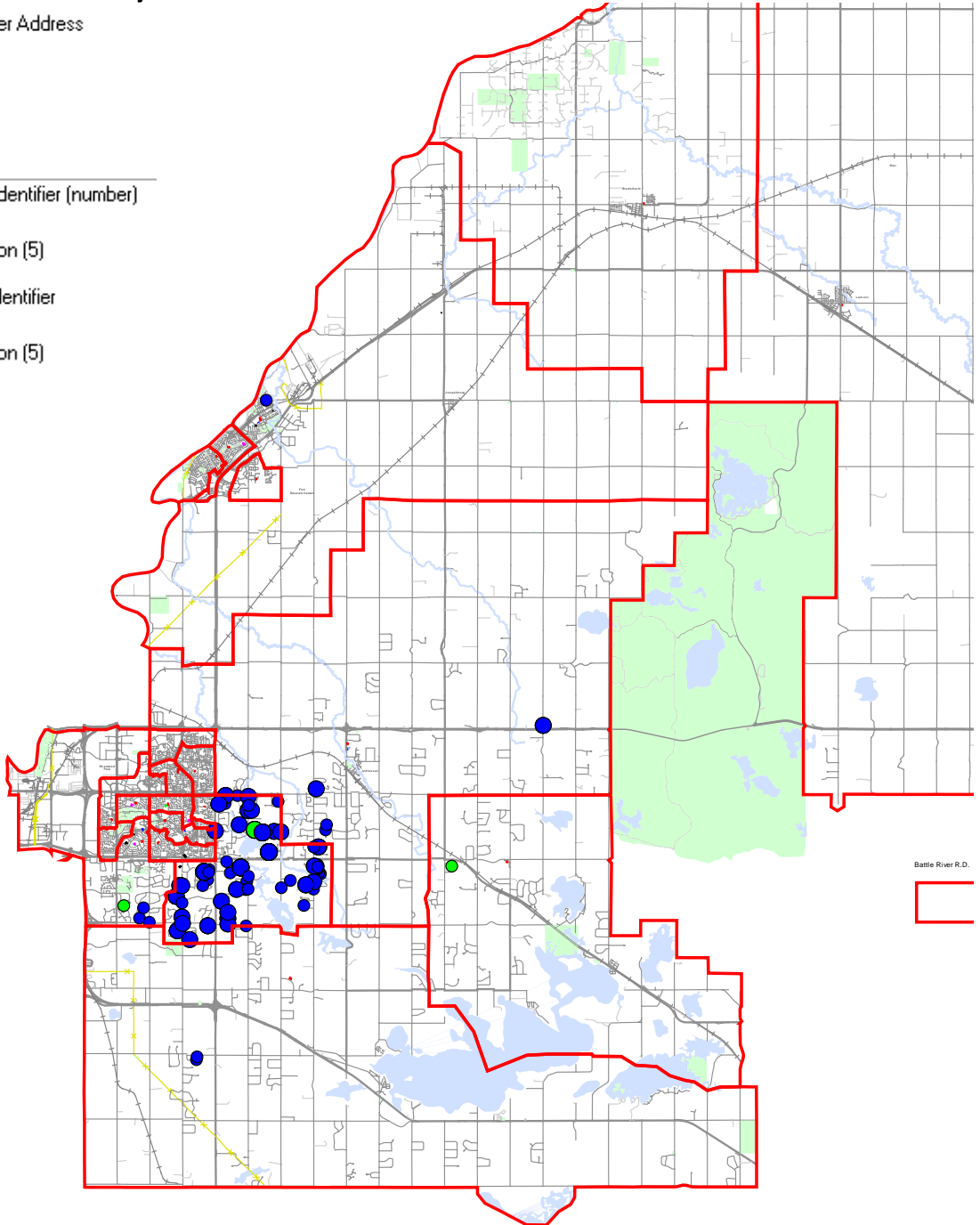


Students by Program/Identifier (number)



Totals by Program/Identifier

Regular (162)
French Immersion (5)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	12	18	19	31	23	31	28	162
French Immersion	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	5
Total by Grade	14	20	19	31	23	32	28	167

Lakeland Ridge by K-6 Catchment Areas

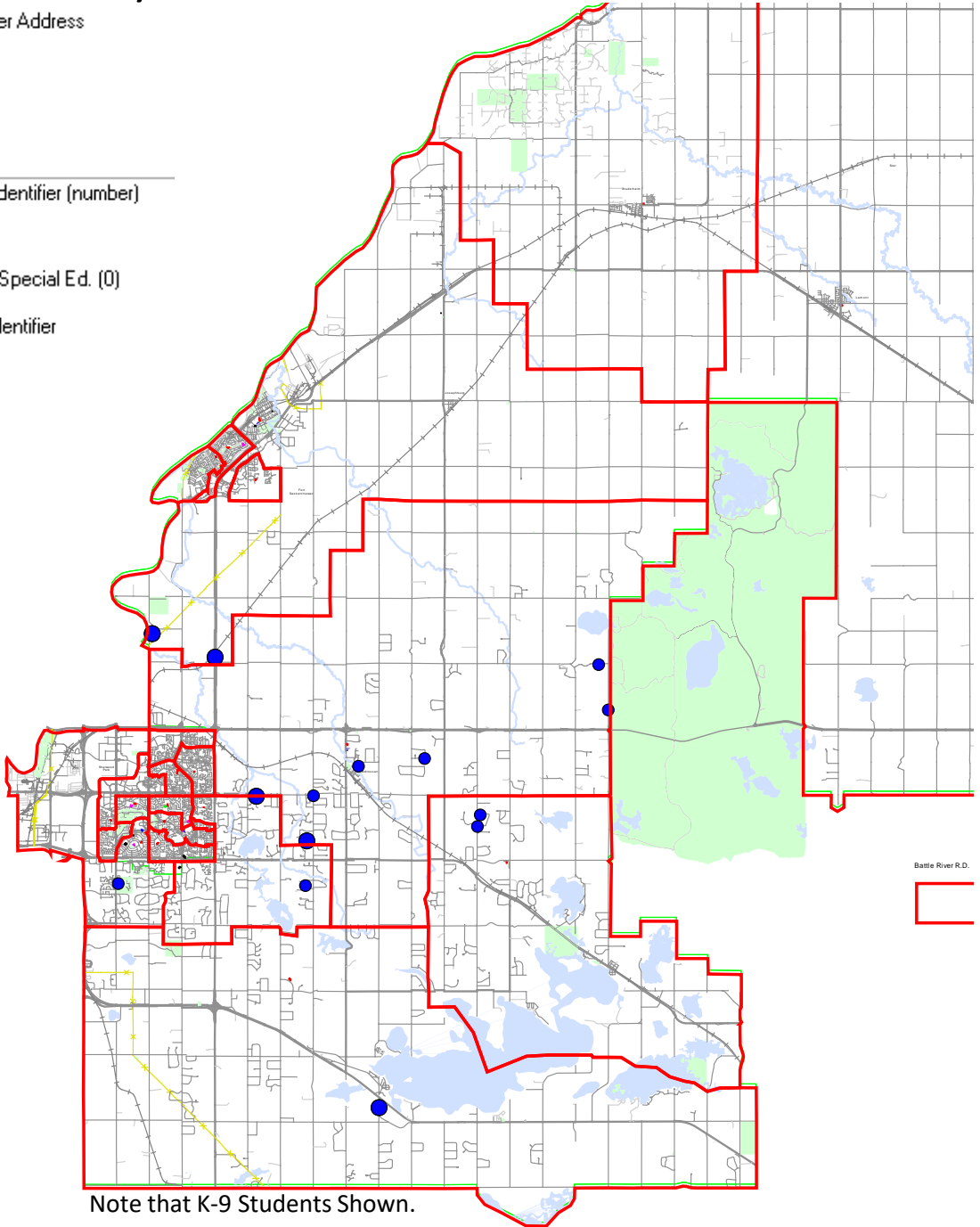
Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (19)
- Division (0)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)

Totals by Program/Identifier
Regular (19)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	0	2	2	0	4	2	1	2	4	2	19

Mills Haven Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

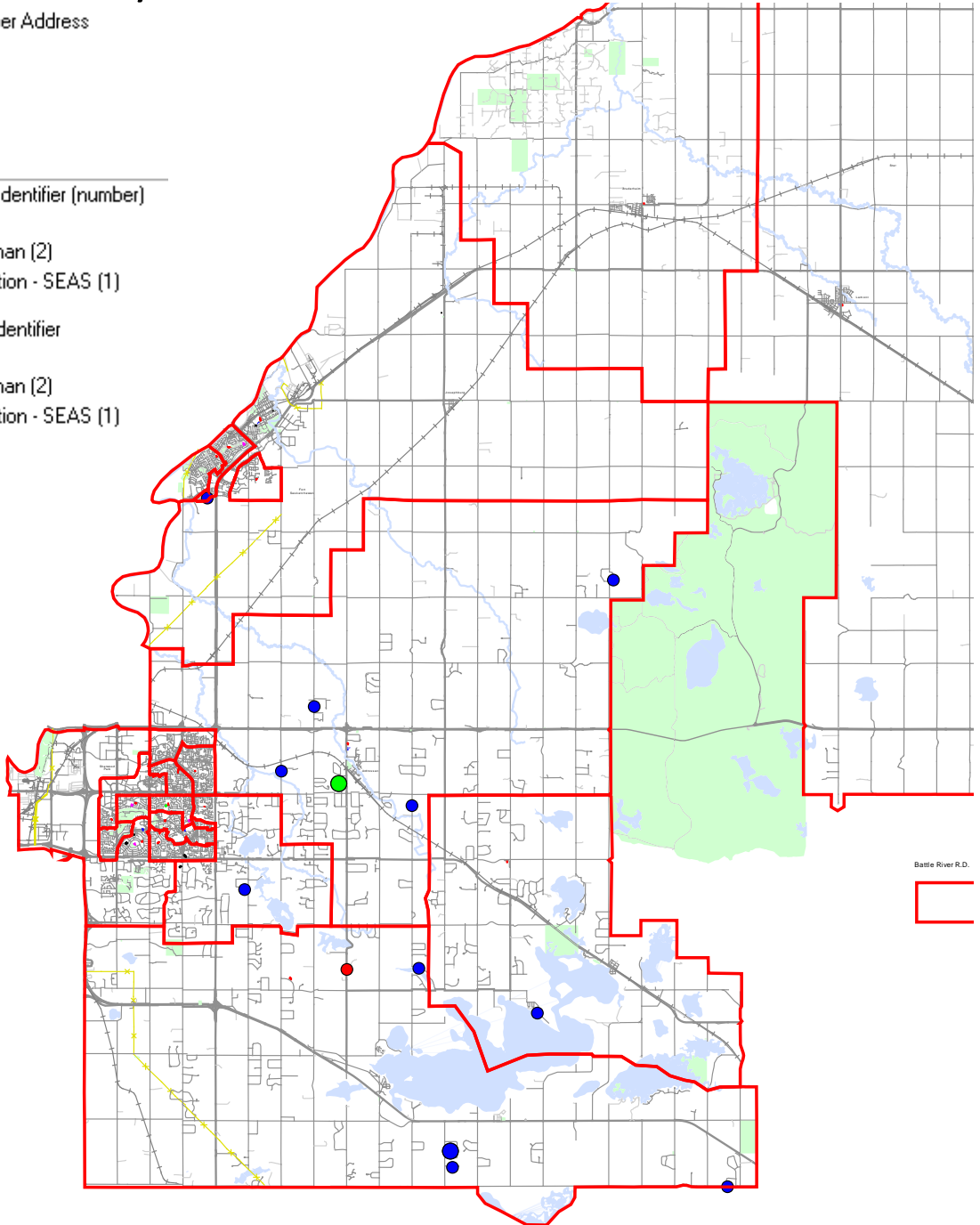
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (12)
- Bilingual - German (2)
- Special Education - SEAS (1)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (12)
- Bilingual - German (2)
- Special Education - SEAS (1)



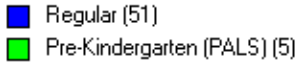
Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	3	3	2	2	0	1	1	12
German Bilingual				1	0	0	1	2
SEAS					1	0	0	1
Total by Grade	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	15

Pine Street Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

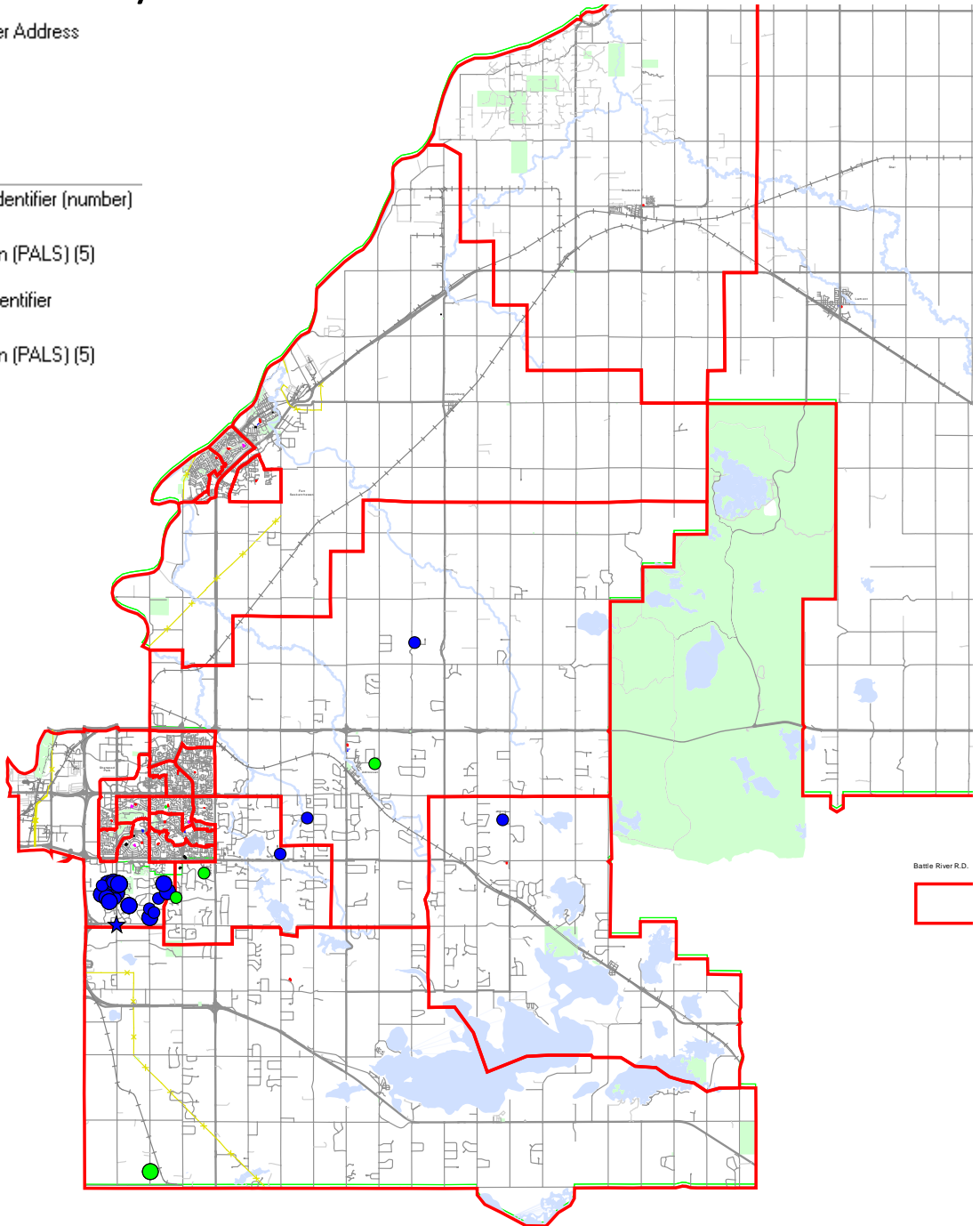


Students by Program/Identifier (number)



Totals by Program/Identifier

Regular (51)
Pre-Kindergarten (PALS) (5)



Program	Pre-Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	5	6	2	9	5	10	13	6	56

Wes Hosford Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

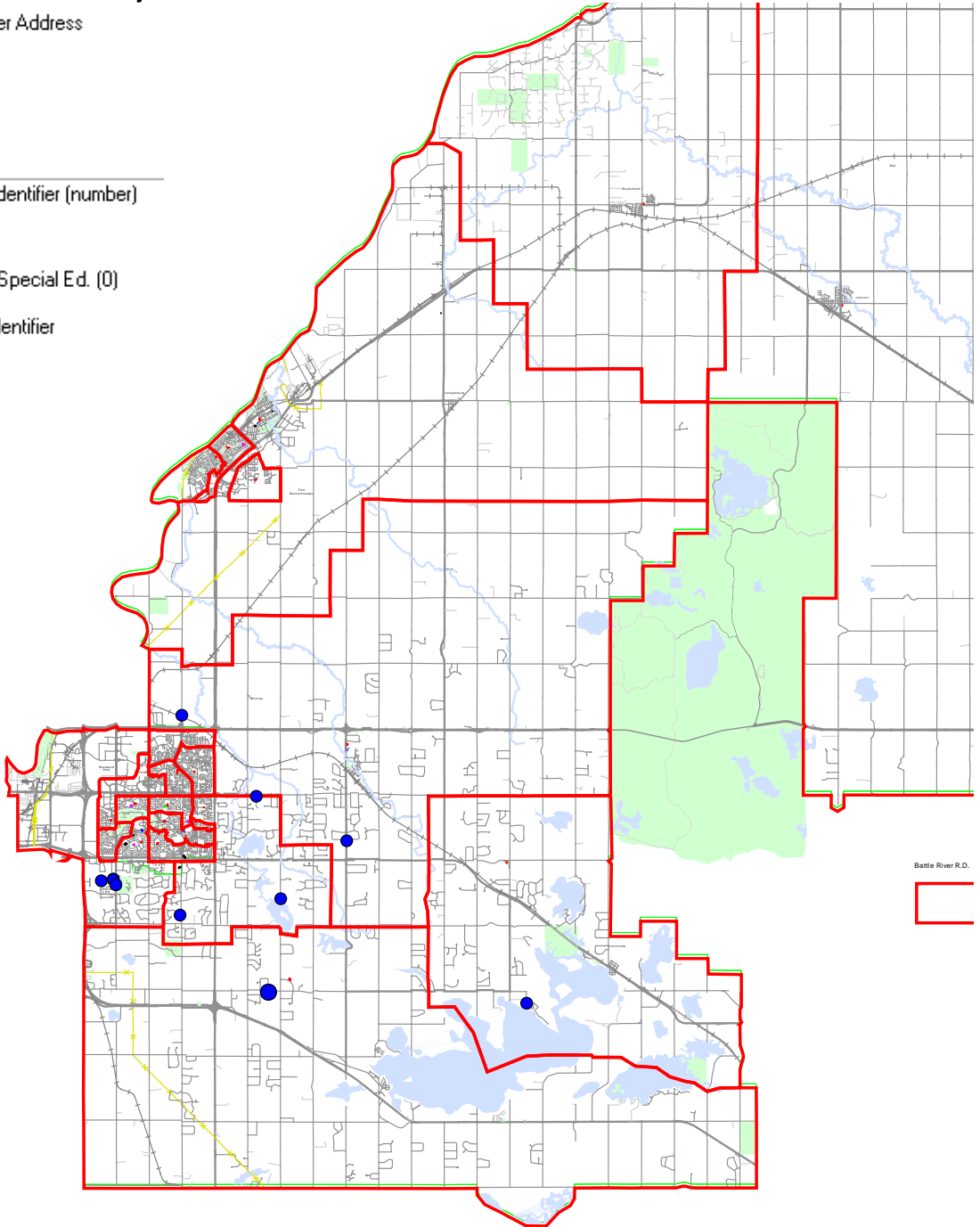
Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (12)
- Division (0)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)

Totals by Program/Identifier
Regular (12)



Battle River R.D.

Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	1	0	1	1	6	2	1	12

Westboro Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

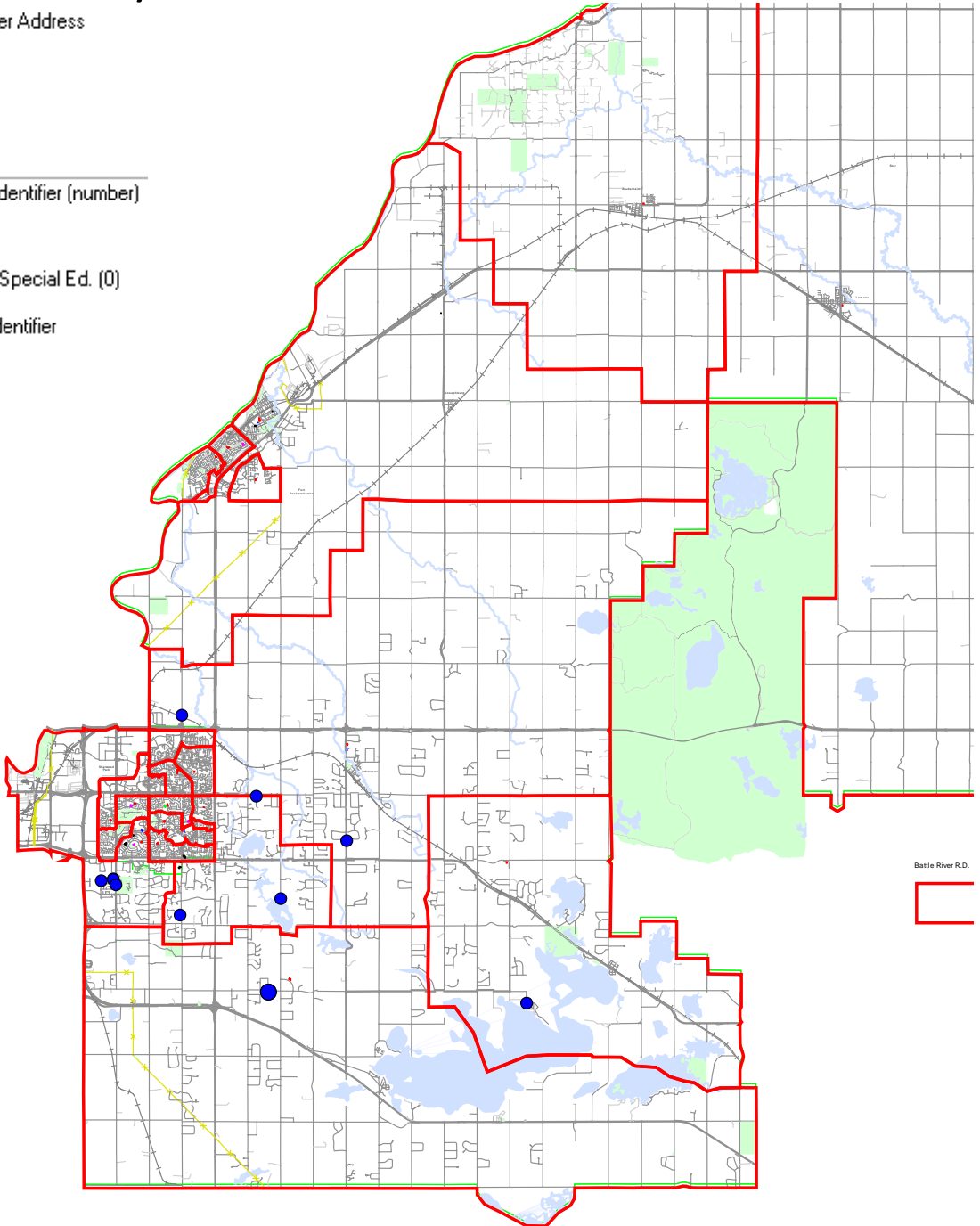
Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (12)
- Division (0)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (0)

Totals by Program/Identifier
Regular (12)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Logos	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	18
Place	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Total by Grade	4	0	3	4	4	3	4	22

Woodbridge Farms Elementary by K-6 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

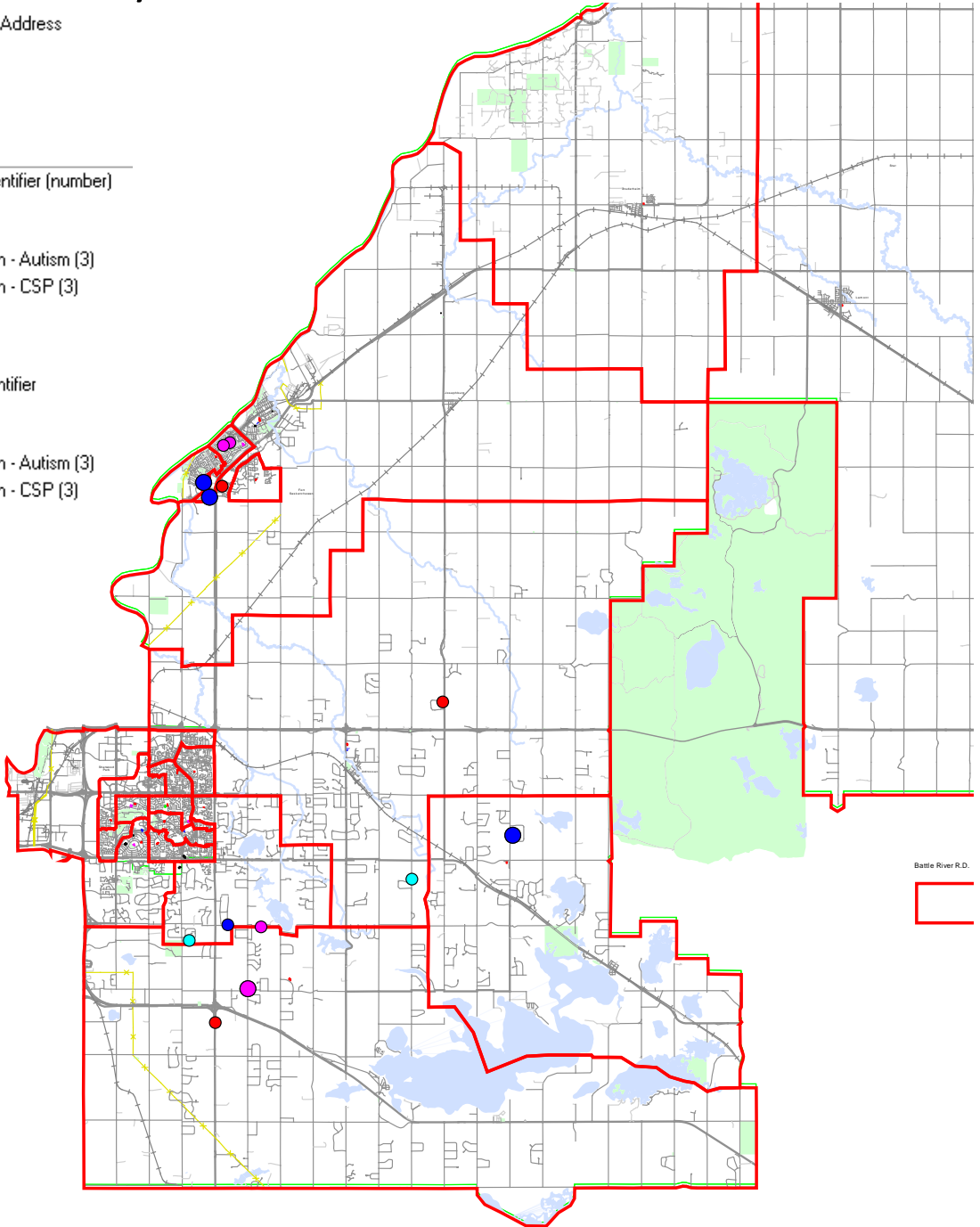
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (6)
- Impact - All (0)
- Special Education - Autism (3)
- Special Education - CSP (3)
- Regular, Impact - All (5)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (11)
- Impact - All (5)
- Special Education - Autism (3)
- Special Education - CSP (3)



Program	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	6
Impact	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	5
CSP	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Connection	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Total by Grade	2	4	2	2	4	0	3	17

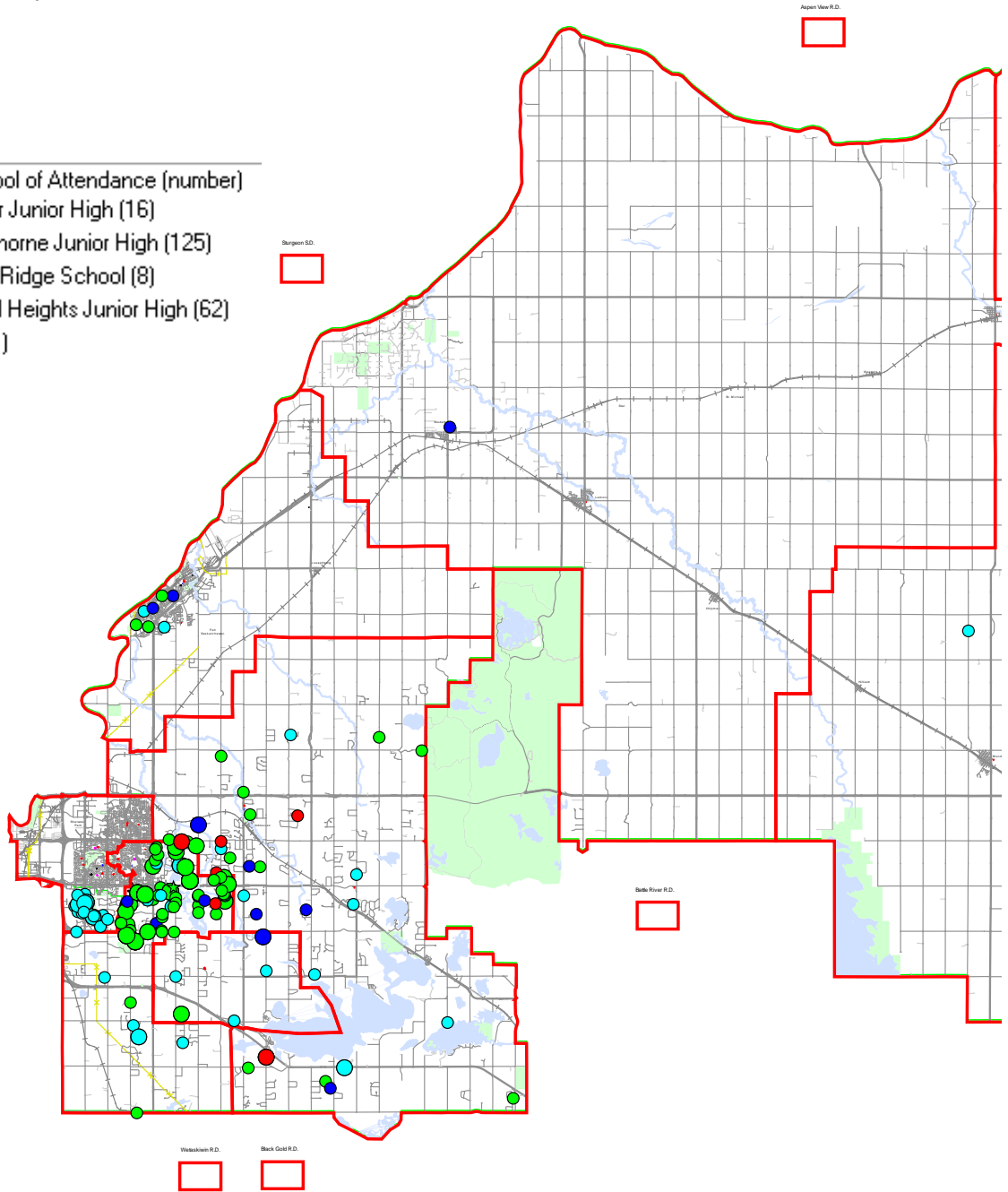
All Junior Highs by by 7-9 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by School of Attendance (number)

- Clover Bar Junior High (16)
- F.R. Haythorne Junior High (125)
- Lakeland Ridge School (8)
- Sherwood Heights Junior High (62)
- Total (211)



Note only students in grades 7-9 shown here for Lakeland Ridge.

Clover Bar Junior High by 7-9 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

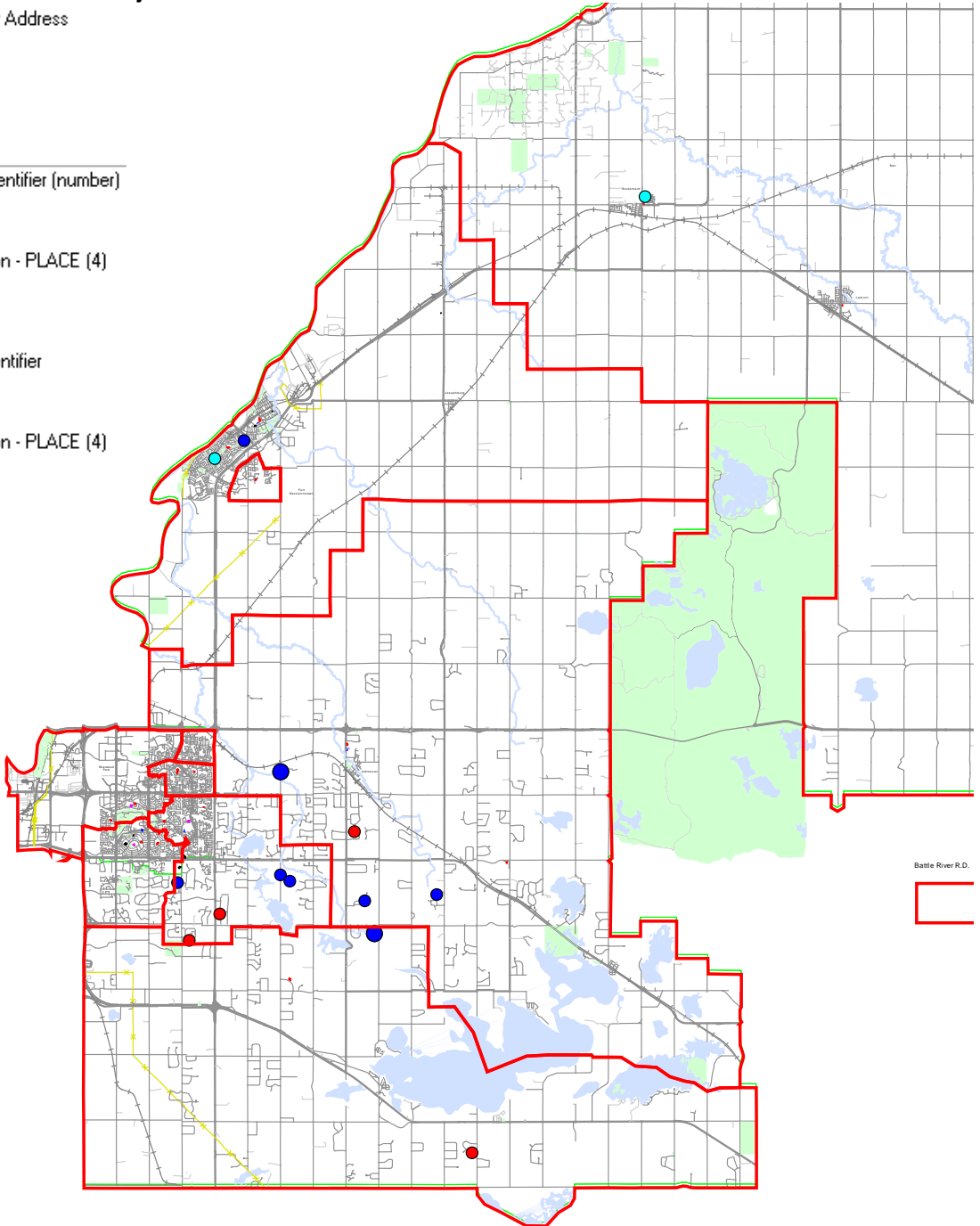
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (10)
- FOCUS (0)
- Special Education - PLACE (4)
- Regular, FOCUS (2)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (12)
- FOCUS (2)
- Special Education - PLACE (4)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	4	2	4	10
FOCUS	2	0	0	2
PLACE	2	2	0	4
Total by Grade	8	4	4	16

F.R. Haythorne Junior High by 7-9 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

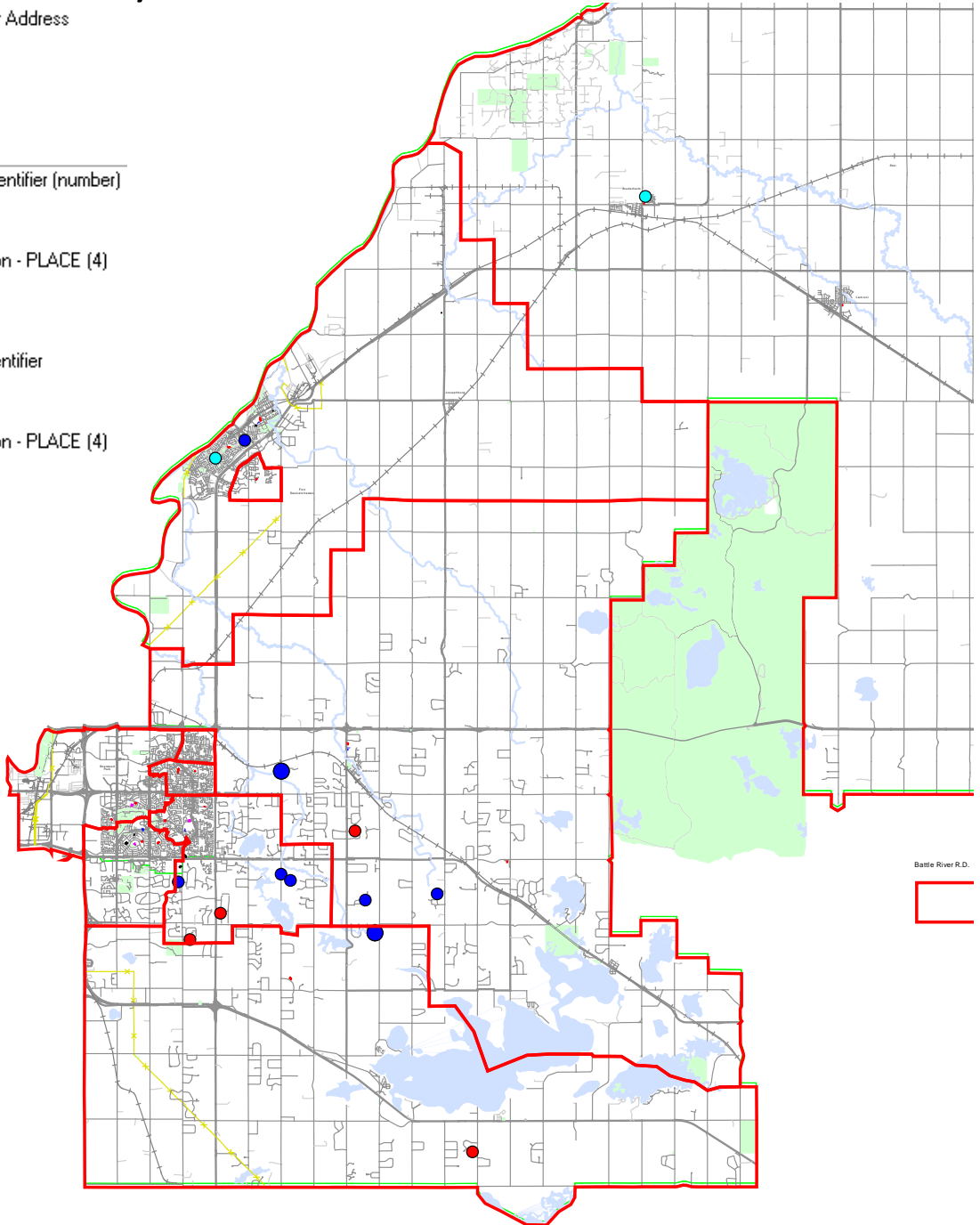
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (10)
- FOCUS (0)
- Special Education - PLACE (4)
- Regular, FOCUS (2)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (12)
- FOCUS (2)
- Special Education - PLACE (4)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	30	32	47	109
FOCUS	0	1	1	2
GOALS	4	5	2	11
SEAS	1	2	0	3
Total by Grade	35	40	50	125

Sherwood Heights Junior High by 7-9 Catchment Areas (Partial View)

Number of Students per Address

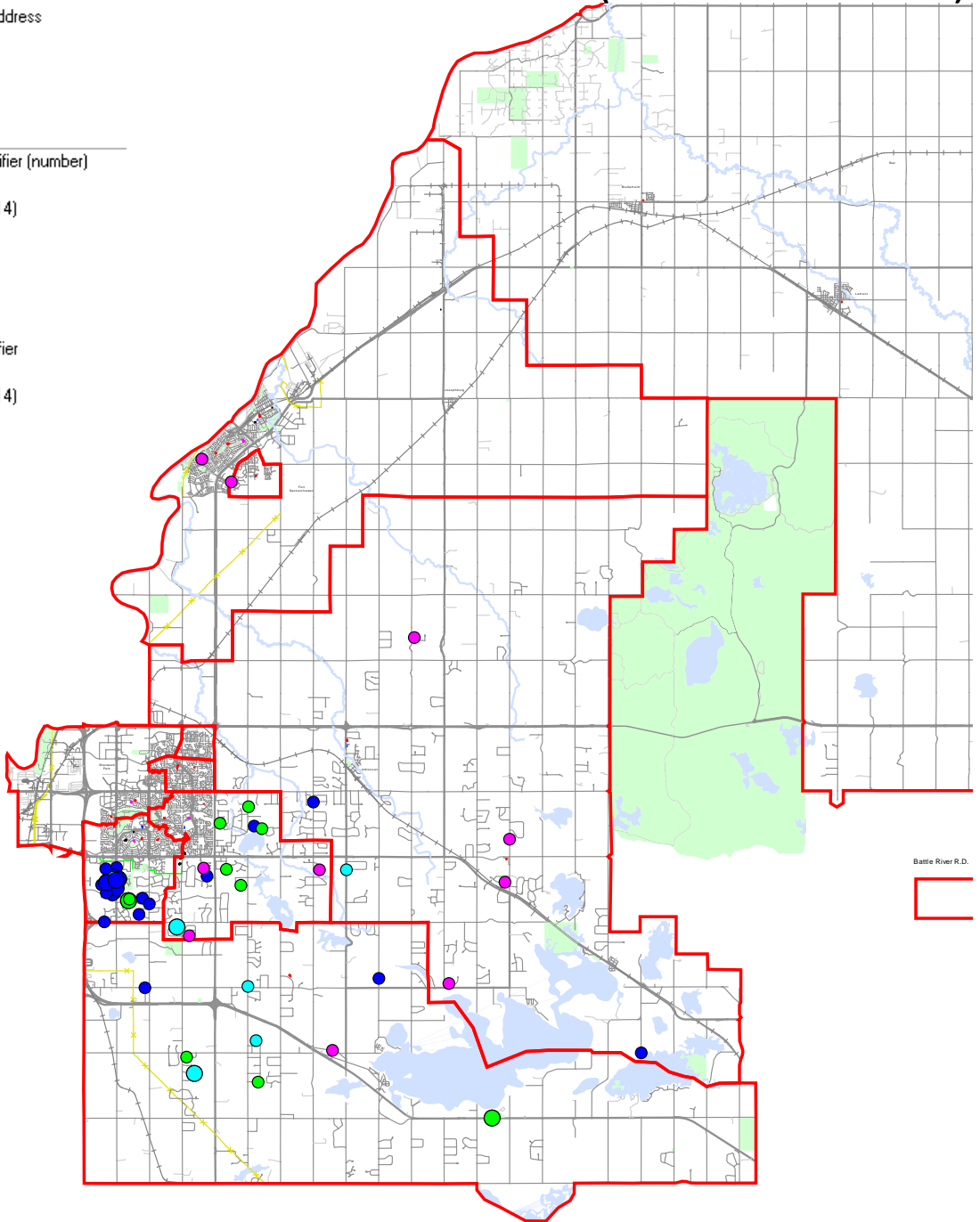
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (30)
- French Immersion (14)
- Impact - All (0)
- Logos Christian (8)
- Regular, Impact - All (10)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (40)
- French Immersion (14)
- Impact - All (10)
- Logos Christian (8)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	13	2	15	30
French Immersion	8	5	1	14
Logos	2	2	4	8
Impact	4	1	5	10
Total by Grade	27	10	25	62

Sherwood Heights Junior High by 7-9 Catchment Areas (Full View)

Number of Students per Address

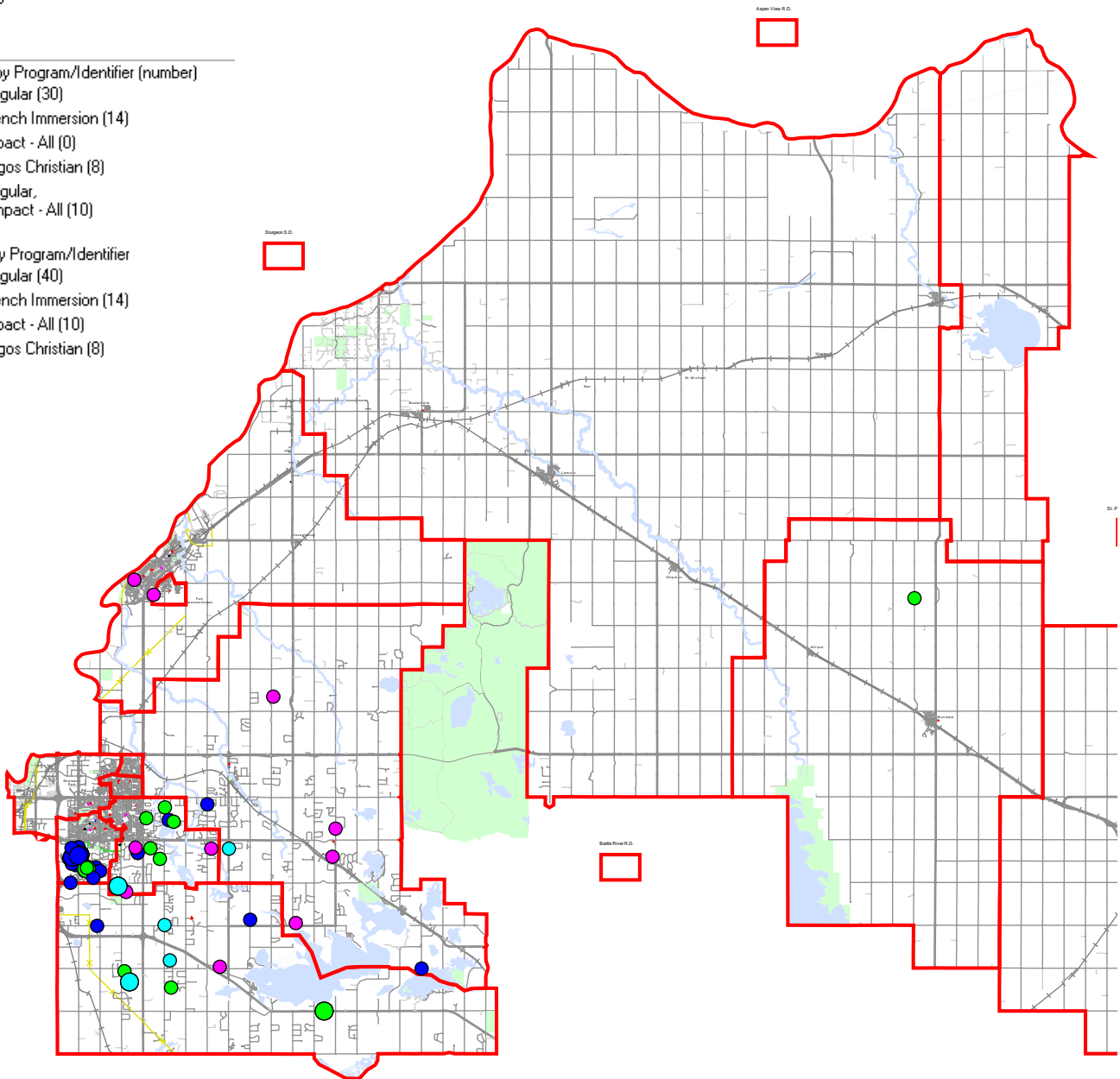
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (30)
- French Immersion (14)
- Impact - All (0)
- Logos Christian (8)
- Regular, Impact - All (10)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (40)
- French Immersion (14)
- Impact - All (10)
- Logos Christian (8)



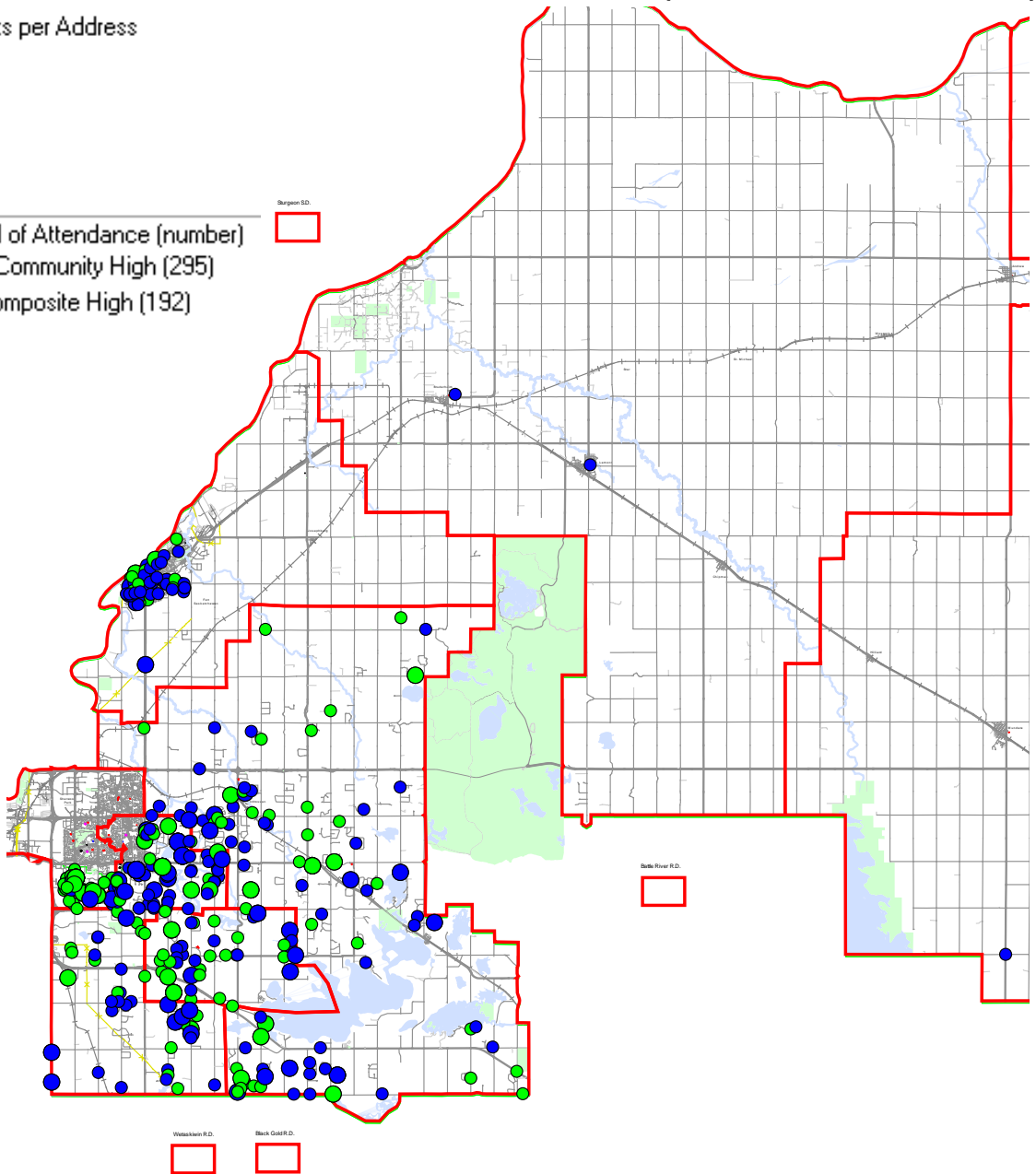
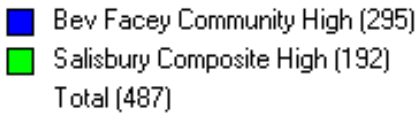
Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	13	2	15	30
French Immersion	8	5	1	14
Logos	2	2	4	8
Impact	4	1	5	10
Total by Grade	27	10	25	62

All Senior Highs by 10-12 Catchment Areas (Partial View)

Number of Students per Address



Students by School of Attendance (number)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	90	71	101	262
GOALS	1	7	7	15
FOCUS	2	4	3	9
PLACE	3	4	2	9
Total by Grade	96	86	113	295

Bev Facey Composite High by 10-12 Catchment Areas (Partial View)

Number of Students per Address

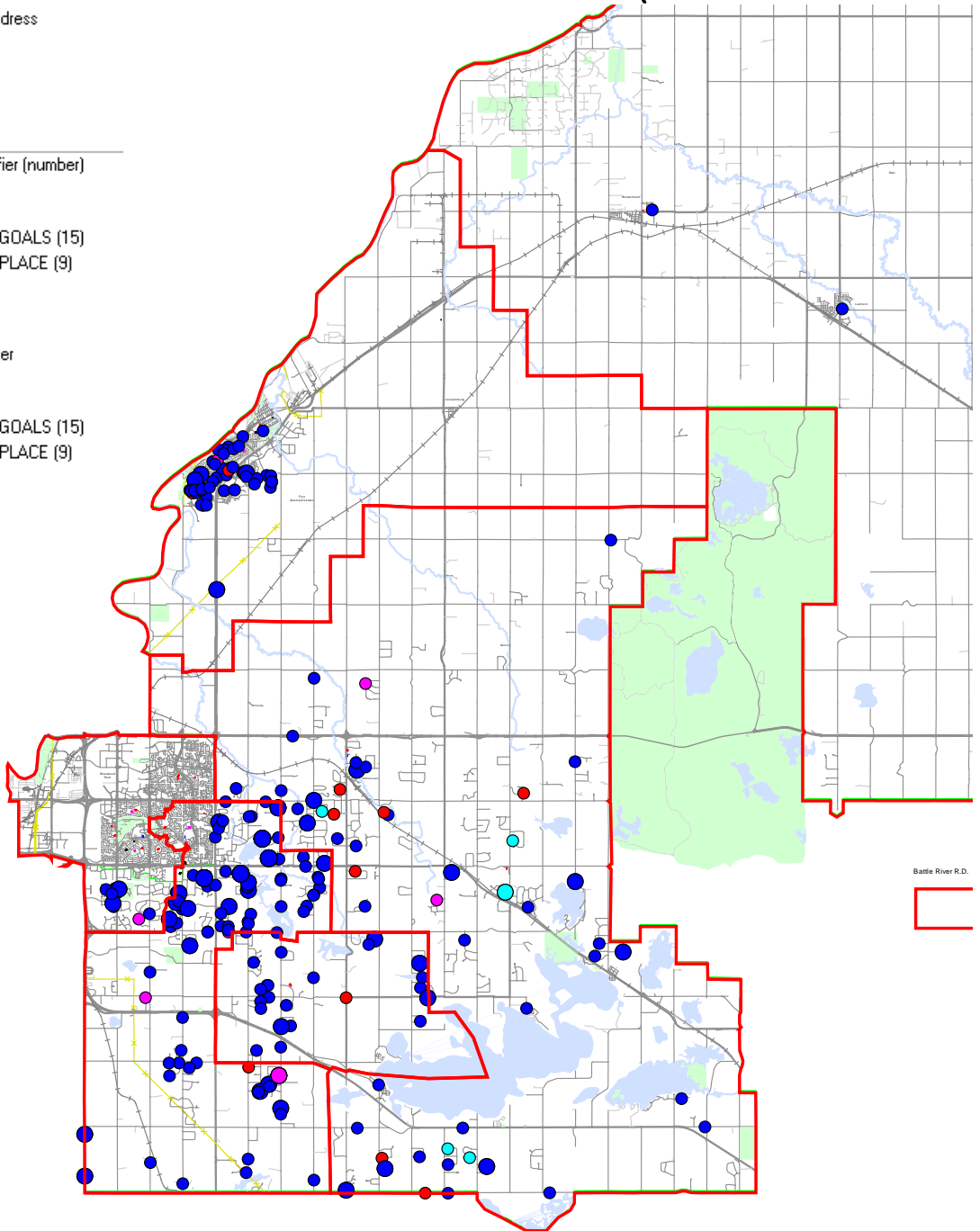
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (262)
- FOCUS (0)
- Special Education - GOALS (15)
- Special Education - PLACE (9)
- Regular, FOCUS (9)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (271)
- FOCUS (9)
- Special Education - GOALS (15)
- Special Education - PLACE (9)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	90	71	101	262
GOALS	1	7	7	15
FOCUS	2	4	3	9
PLACE	3	4	2	9
Total by Grade	96	86	113	295

Bev Facey Composite High by 10-12 Catchment Areas (Full View)

Number of Students per Address

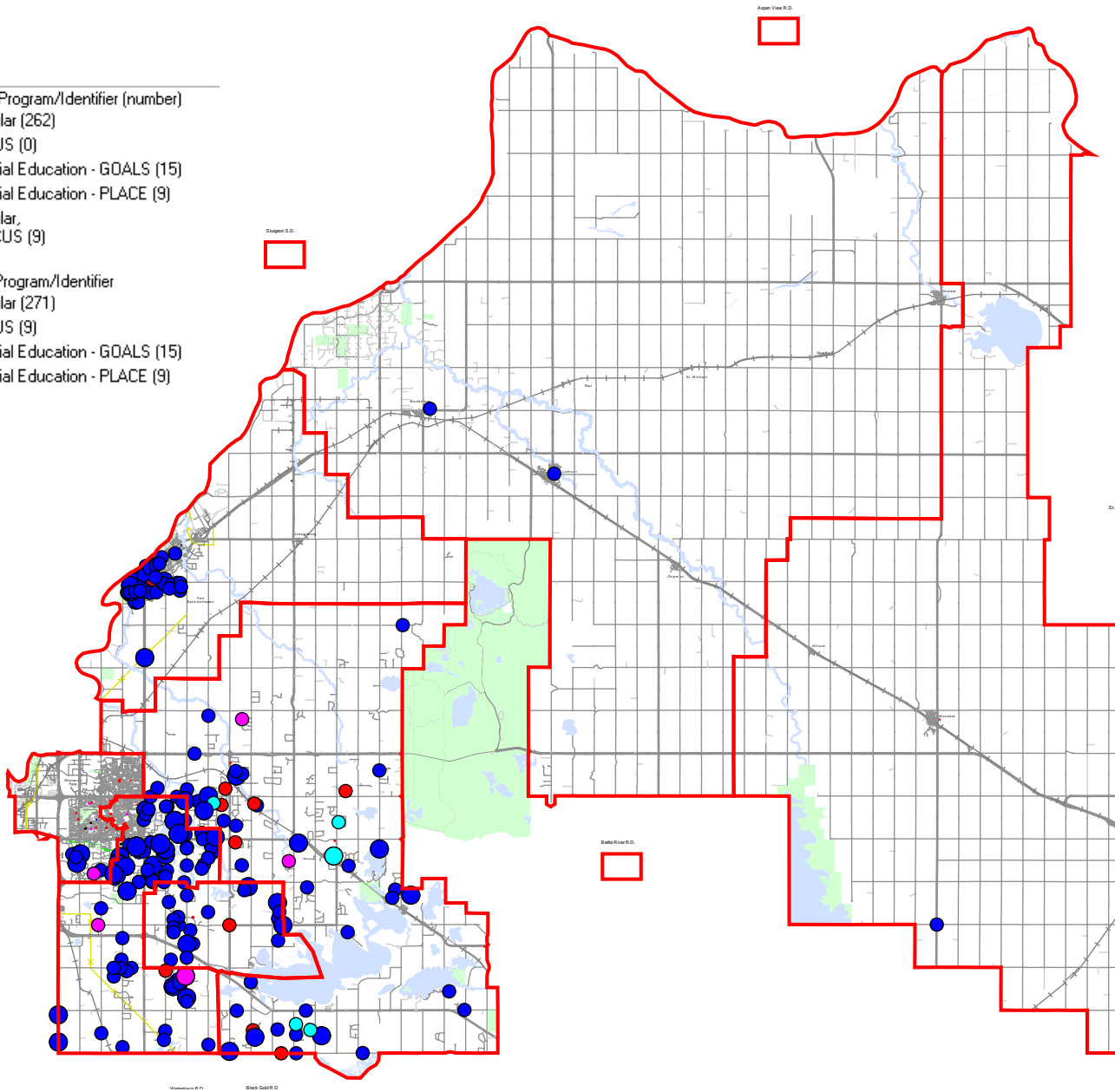
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (262)
- FOCUS (0)
- Special Education - GOALS (15)
- Special Education - PLACE (9)
- Regular, FOCUS (9)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (271)
- FOCUS (9)
- Special Education - GOALS (15)
- Special Education - PLACE (9)



Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	90	71	101	262
GOALS	1	7	7	15
FOCUS	2	4	3	9
PLACE	3	4	2	9
Total by Grade	96	86	113	295

Salisbury Composite High by 10-12 Catchment Areas

Number of Students per Address

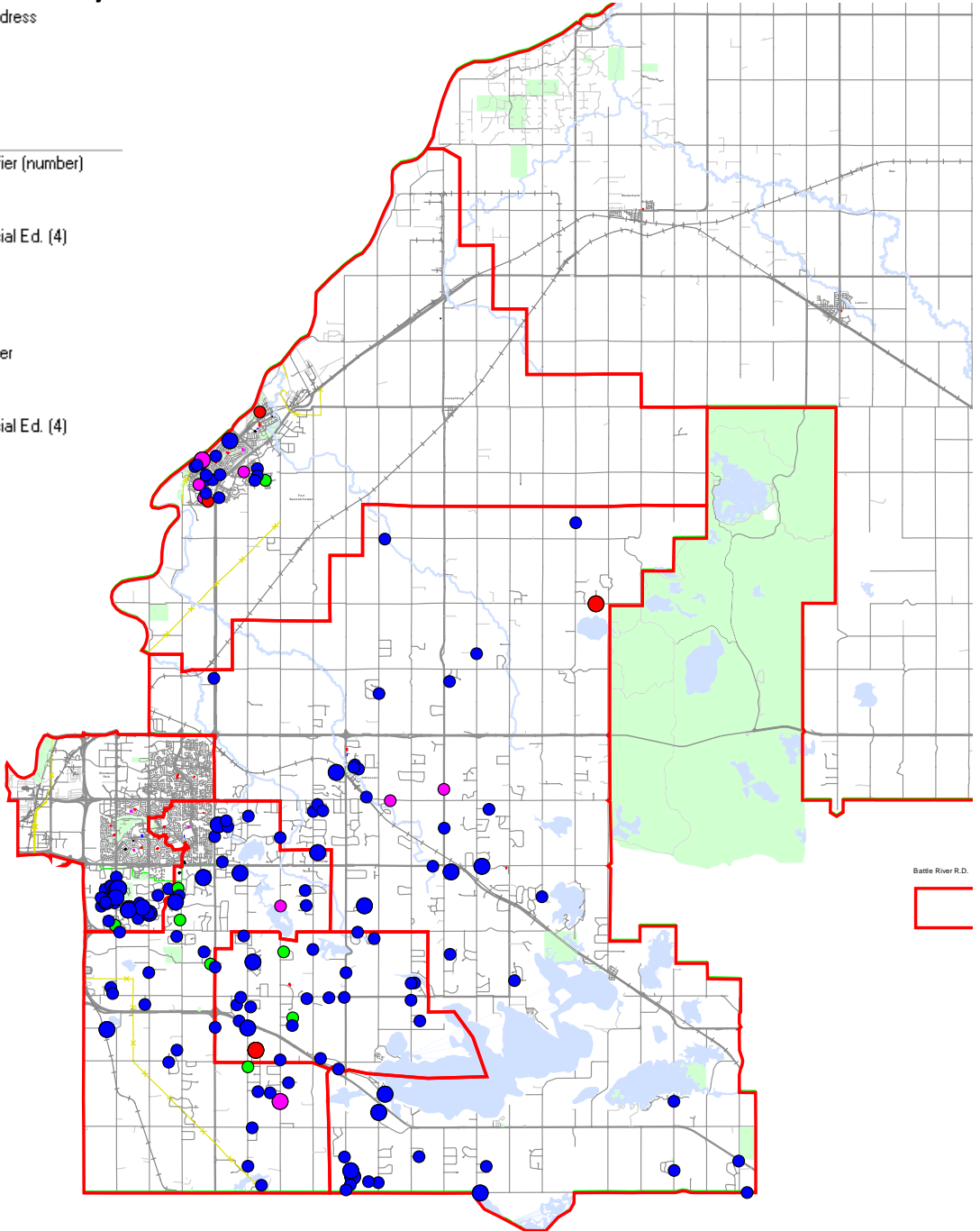
- 1 - 1
- 2 - 5
- 6+

Students by Program/Identifier (number)

- Regular (165)
- Division (12)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (4)
- Impact - All (0)
- Regular, Impact - All (11)

Totals by Program/Identifier

- Regular (176)
- Division (12)
- Self-Contained Special Ed. (4)
- Impact - All (11)

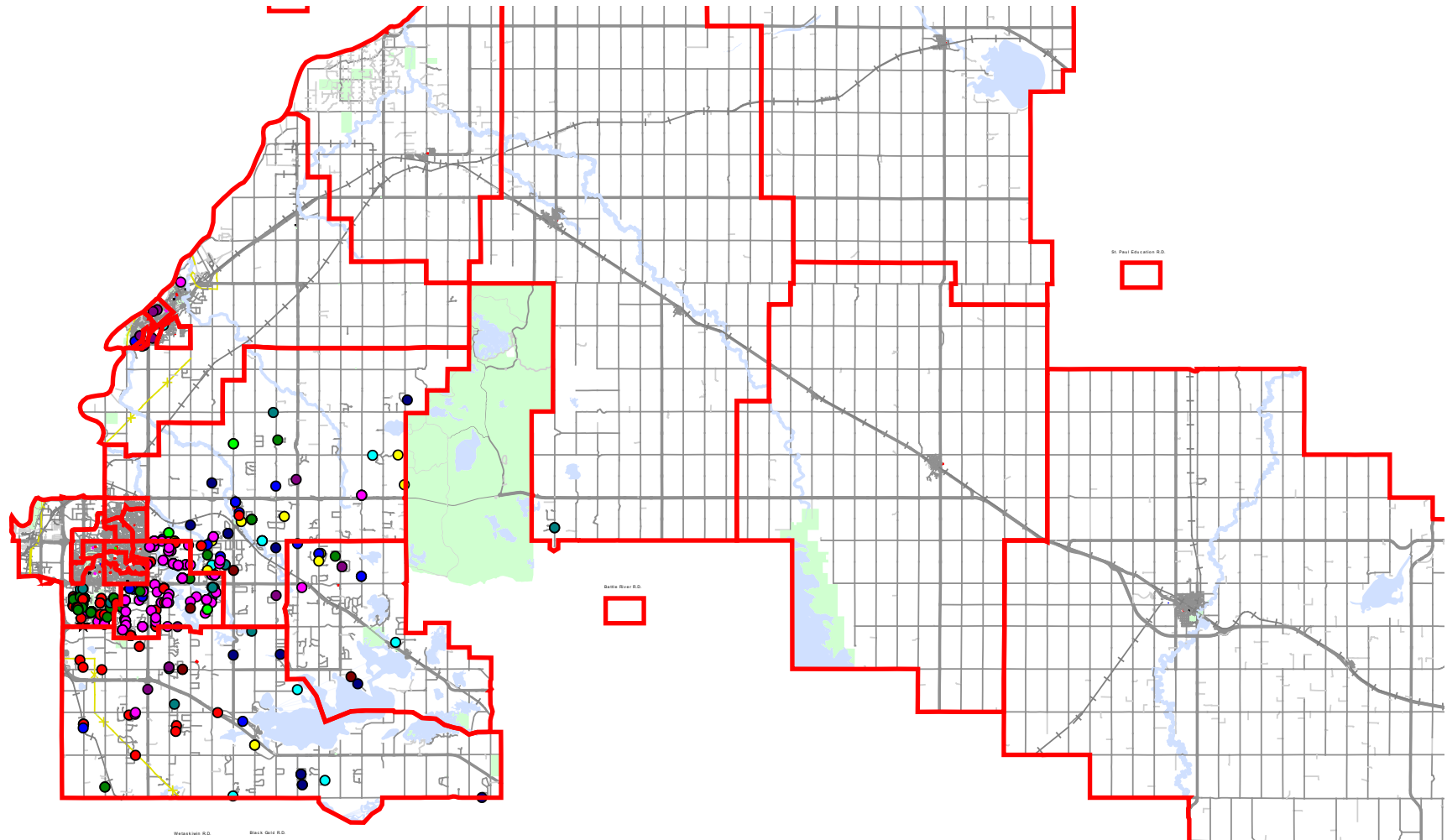


Program	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Regular	48	57	60	165
International Baccalaureate	0	9	3	12
Impact	4	4	3	11
STEPS	1	3	0	4
Total by Grade	53	73	66	192

Residents of Sector 2,3,4 & 5 in K-6 attending A Sector 1 School.

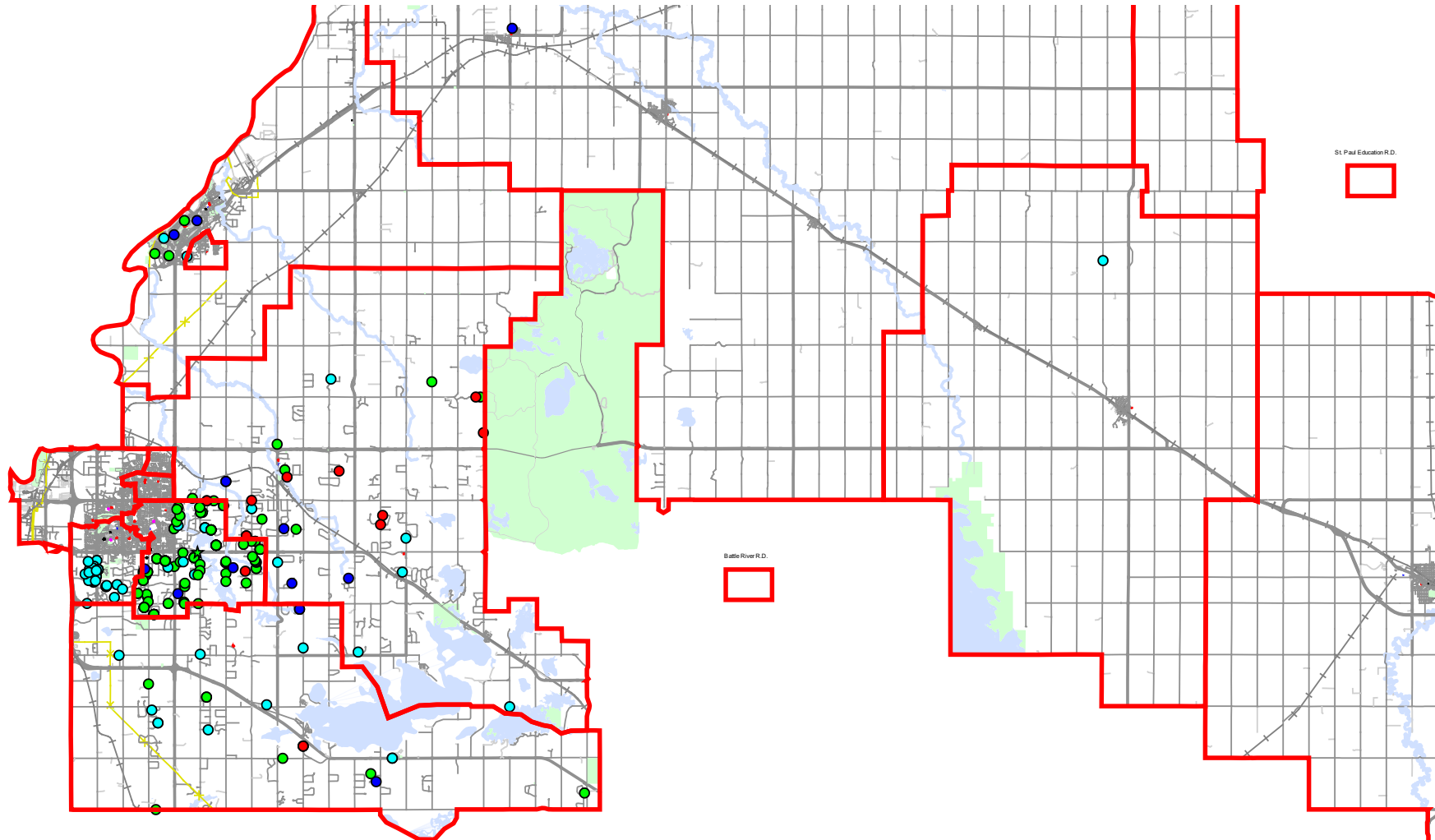
Students by School of Attendance (number)

- Brentwood Elementary (32)
- Davidson Creek Elementary (6)
- Ecole Campbelltown (62)
- Glen Allan Elementary (14)
- Heritage Hills Elementary School (167)
- Lakeland Ridge School (15)
- Mills Haven Elementary (15)
- Pine Street Elementary (56)
- Wes Hosford Elementary (11)
- Westboro Elementary (22)
- Woodbridge Farms Elementary (17)
- Total (417)



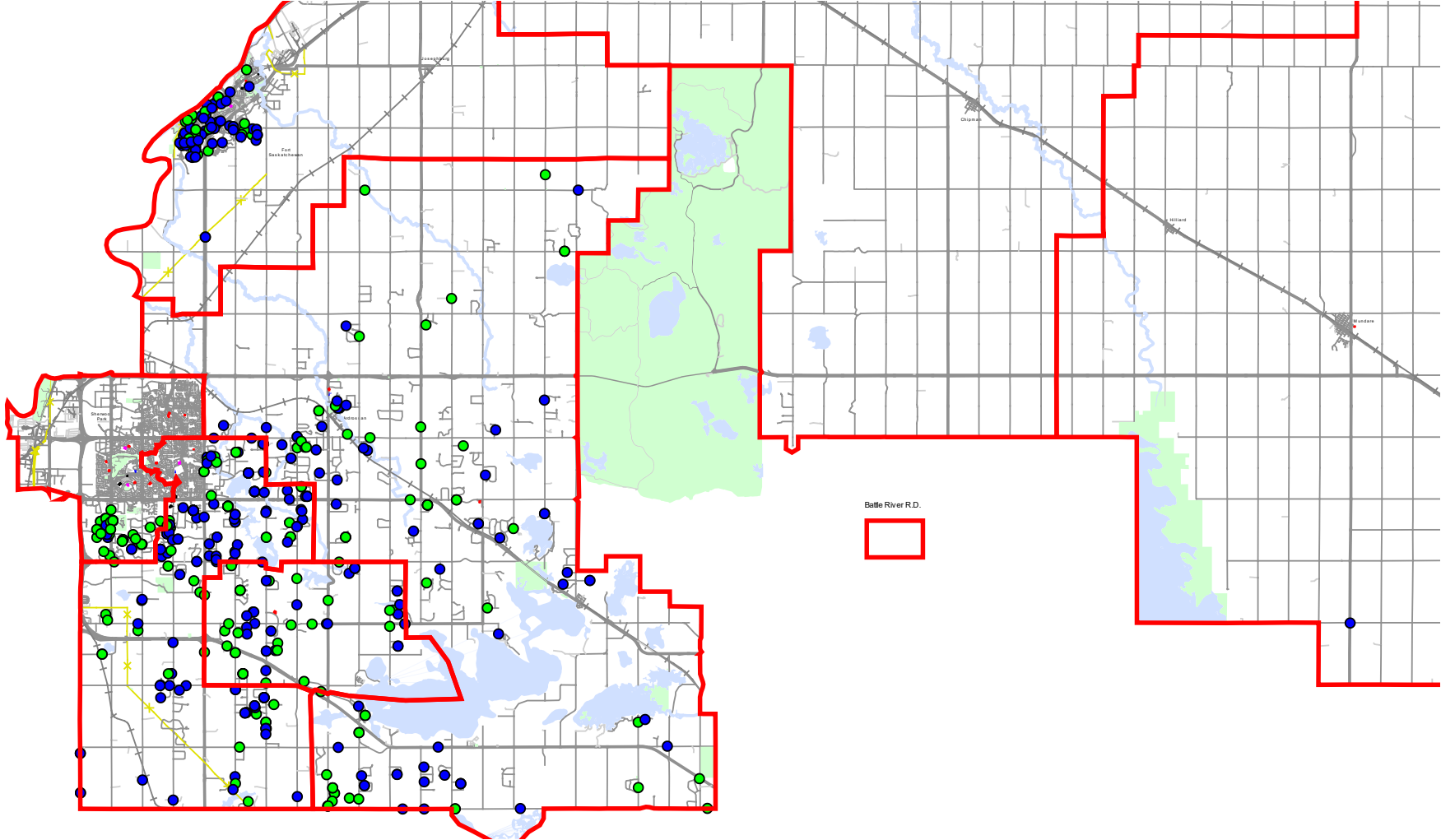
Residents of Sector 2,3,4 & 5 in 7-9 attending A Sector 1 School.

Students by School of Attendance (number)
■ Clover Bar Junior High (16)
■ F.R. Haythorne Junior High (124)
■ Lakeland Ridge School (15)
■ Sherwood Heights Junior High (62)
Total (217)

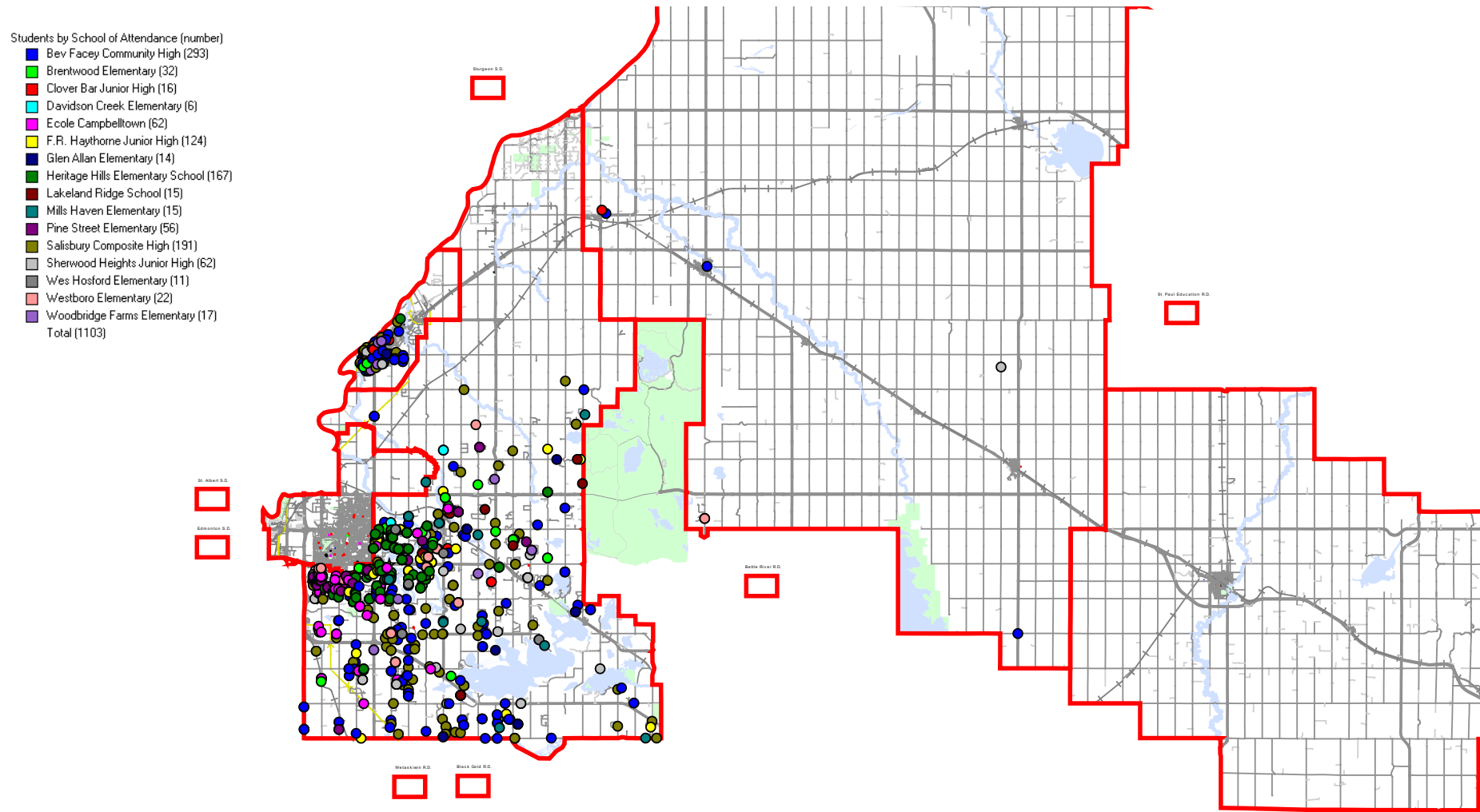


Residents of Sector 2,3,4 & 5 in 10-12 attending A Sector 1 School.

Students by School of Attendance (number)
■ Bev Facey Community High (293)
■ Salisbury Composite High (191)
Total (484)



Residents of Sector 2,3,4 & 5 in K-12 attending A Sector 1 School.





Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools

Overview

Routine public health practices can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, maintaining ventilation, staying home when sick and getting vaccinated.

The guidance provided in this document is intended to support schools and school authority leaders in reducing the risk of transmission of these illnesses and infections among students, staff and visitors by providing options to integrate good public health practices into normal operations under the 2021-22 School Year Plan.

Schools and school authorities are strongly encouraged to use strategies from this guidance to establish their own plans to reduce transmission of COVID-19, influenza as well as other infections in the school setting. Individuals should also assess and manage their personal risk, which may include using additional precautions such as continuing to use a face mask, in order to serve their individual needs. School authorities continue to have the ability and corresponding accountability for any local measures that are put in place, such as physical distancing, cohorting and masking requirements that may exceed provincial guidance.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) and their designates are available to support school authorities throughout the province. Their role is to provide guidance on communicable disease risk as well as risk management. If you have concerns, need specific guidance, or have questions about how to apply the measures in this document, or additional measures based on local context, please contact Environmental Public Health in your Zone for assistance (see Appendix A).

Core Public Health Preventative Measures

Vaccines

- All eligible staff and students should be encouraged to be fully vaccinated for respiratory illnesses, where applicable, such as COVID-19 and influenza.
- The annual influenza vaccine is available to all Albertans six months and older beginning every fall.
- All staff and students born in 2009 or prior are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.
- At this time, children born in 2010 or later are not currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- It is important for those who are eligible to get vaccinated to reduce the risk to the broader community and those who are unable to receive the vaccine at this time.

Environmental measures

- HVAC systems should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines.
- Open windows and doors where possible to increase air circulation and encourage outdoor activities, when weather permits.
- Schools should have procedures that outline routine cleaning requirements, including regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

Staying home when sick

- Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), students (or their caregivers) and visitors, should assess whether they feel well enough to attend school for any reason.
 - Parents/guardians should assess their children daily for any new signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).

- Anyone that reports COVID-19 symptoms is directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should be tested.
- For information on isolation for staff and students with symptoms, or for confirmed COVID-19 cases, please see Appendix B.
- Anyone who feels unwell with other symptoms should stay at home until they are well.

Hand hygiene

- Consider ways to promote and facilitate frequent and proper hand hygiene for all students, staff and visitors, such as:
 - Providing soap and running water or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Placing hand sanitizer in convenient locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available or nearby, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces.
 - Promoting hand hygiene before/after activities (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating or serving food, after using washrooms, before and after having physical contact with other staff or students, etc.).
 - Giving verbal reminders for hand hygiene and posting signs. Schools can download posters at alberta.ca/returntoschool
 - If parents have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer they should contact their school administration to discuss potential alternatives.

Respiratory etiquette

- Encourage students, staff and visitors to use proper respiratory etiquette (e.g., sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding tissues immediately into a lined bin, performing hand hygiene).
 - Have information available (e.g., signs) for individuals on these practices, as needed.
- Schools should support students, staff and visitors in their choice to wear a mask. Students, parents/guardians, staff and visitors should consider their own risk of acquiring COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illnesses when making decisions on wearing a mask.
- Students, teachers, staff and visitors must follow provincial requirements for masks.
 - Masks remain mandatory for students, teachers, staff members and visitors on school buses and publicly accessible transit, such as municipal buses, taxis and ride-shares.
 - Exceptions to the mask requirement on school buses are listed in CMOH Order 34-2021.

Responding to Illness

Symptomatic students and staff

- Schools are encouraged to have a plan in place if a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness while at school. This can include:
 - Sending home students or staff who are sick, where possible.
 - Having a separate area for students and staff who are sick.
- A staff member caring for an ill student should consider wearing a mask.
- If a student or staff member begins developing new symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, etc.), they should be provided with a mask to wear while waiting to go home.
- For information on isolation for staff and students with symptoms, or for confirmed COVID-19 cases, see Appendix B.
- Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result is not necessary for a student or staff member to return to school.
 - Individuals should not return to the school until they are feeling well.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or administrators of individual cases of COVID-19 within their school setting, as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
- Staff, students or parents/guardians may choose to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result.
 - Individuals are not required to share their COVID-19 test results with school administration.
- School administrators and/or school authorities are not required to contact AHS to report student or staff cases.

- School administrators should continue to monitor their school population for additional cases (e.g., an individual voluntarily shares they are positive for COVID or they start to experience COVID-19 symptoms while at the school) and/or absenteeism due to illness.

Reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism

- If there is a school-wide absence rate of 10% or greater due to illness OR there are an unusual amount of individuals with similar symptoms, report to AHS Coordinated Early Identification Response (CEIR) team at 1-844-343-0971, regardless of the schools' participation in Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Network (ARTSSN).
 - The purpose of this reporting is to continue to monitor for clusters of respiratory or gastrointestinal illness and alert AHS to potential disease outbreaks.
- Where absenteeism of 10% or greater has been identified by AHS due to illness, AHS may declare an outbreak and recommend additional voluntary measures to reduce ongoing transmission for the duration of the outbreak, generally 14 days from when the outbreak was declared, unless absenteeism continues to increase.
 - Additional recommendations may include active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, maintaining cohorts, mask recommendations, and/or limiting group/extra-curricular activities.
 - A Medical Officer of Health (MOH)/designate has the authority under the *Public Health Act* to recommend additional public health measures if they identify an unacceptable risk in a specific circumstance. Please follow all guidance and recommendations provided by the MOH/designate.

Appendix A: Environmental Public Health Contacts

Alberta Health Services

Portal link: <https://ephisahs.albertahealthservices.ca/create-case/>

ZONE	CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS FOR MAIN OFFICE
Calgary Zone	calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Calgary 403-943-2288
Central Zone	centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Red Deer 403-356-6366
Edmonton Zone	edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Edmonton 780-735-1800
North Zone	northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Grande Prairie 780-513-7517
South Zone	she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca	Lethbridge 403-388-6689

Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

OFFICE	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS	
	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	
Edmonton	Environmental Public Health	780-495-4409
Tsuut'ina	Environmental Public Health	403-299-3939

Appendix B: Management of Symptomatic Individuals and Individuals Tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
Symptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
	Negative	Stay home until symptoms resolve.
	Not tested	<p>Student: If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Adult: If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Student: If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24h. If improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary). • TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until symptom(s) resolve (testing recommended but not required). <p>Adult: If other symptoms, stay home until symptoms resolve.</p>
Asymptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the collection date of the swab.
	Negative	No isolation required.